

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (Adur).—But the subject is important.

Mr. President.—Yes, but not the answer. The motion is clearly out of order.

Motion was ruled out of order.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

15—General Administration—Rs. 96,066.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—Sir, I rise to move that this House may be pleased to grant a sum of Rs. 96,066 under 15—General Administration. Sir, I do not propose to preface my request with any lengthy speech. The details of the different items of expenditure are in the budget placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Members. I find that there are as many as 50 cuts tabled to discuss this demand. It is gratifying to find that all the 49 of them are token cuts intended to criticise a particular action of Government or to draw the attention of Government to any particular aspect of any matter. There is only one substantial cut which deals with the Publicity Officer. As the cut motions will be moved soon, I would reserve whatever the Government have to say with reference to each of these motions at the proper time. I request the House will be pleased to grant this demand.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Urakam).—“To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for Publicity Officer and staff. No necessity for same.”

Sir, the point of my motion is that there is no necessity for the appointment of a Publicity Officer at present. It is one of the ornaments or rather I would call it one of the luxuries of all modern Governments. I do not know the exact nature of the activities of this officer but from what I gather from the proceedings of the Government which announced this appointment the main object of appointing him or of creating that post is this. Says the proceedings “It has been brought to the notice of the Government that of late certain newspapers published in the neighbouring areas of the State have been giving publicity to false and unfounded statements thereby creating alarm to the State. In the interests of administration it is therefore necessary to issue contradictions in such cases. It is also found by experience that some machinery of the State

is necessary to give authentic information of the opinions of Government." Two reasons are given and the main one probably is the publication of news not to the liking of the Government by some papers outside the State and the object is to contradict the informations contained in them. My position is that conceding for the sake of argument that the state of affairs described in the Government proceedings do really exist this work can be entrusted to anybody else. It does not require a publicity officer on a salary of Rs. 150 to 200 with a staff and other appendages attached to it to contradict these. The Government has to depend upon those very papers to publish the contradiction. Government having no power to control or compel them to publish the information. This officer can do only very little. So far as the affairs in the State is concerned, as long as the present Newspapers Act is in force, there need be absolutely no fear for the Government of any paper in the State publishing any news which are not palatable to them. The publicity officer is interested mainly, if not wholly, in contradicting information which affects the Government and no paper will dare to publish any information against it so long as the Democles Sword of the Newspaper Act hangs over their heads. From the point of view of the public there is a danger in keeping this officer. The Publicity Officer will begin to exaggerate the good points of the Government or in other words he may ultimately degenerate into a propagandist of the Government and abuse his powers. I can understand a popular Government like the one we find in Madras having a Minister for Public Information because they have many new schemes to be explained to the public. They are going to introduce many revolutionary changes in the administration, they are even trying to make some adjustments in the social and economic structure of the society. At such a time it may be necessary for a Government to have a Publicity Minister but not in a State like ours where as I said yesterday in my speech the administrative chariot is running in the same beaurocratic rut. This administrative chariot does not require a syce in liveries on the side of the Coachman. Can the State afford to spend money on this ornament? We have stinged expenditure under various heads of public services, say for instance the Panchayats, for the next year. On this most useful institution intended to serve the villages a big cut had been made amounting to two lakhs of rupees. It was only yesterday that we were told during the question hour that the Government was reduced financially to such a stringent position that it was found impossible to continue the stipend of a paltry amount of Rs. 20 per

mensem given to a poor but brilliant boy belonging to a backward community in the middle of his educational career in the Madras Engineering College. When such is the state of affairs, when the financial stringency is so great, it is, I submit very inopportune to create posts of this kind. I therefore move for the omission of this grant. It is not this 2,500 rupees alone that we are spending on this account but also another sum of Rs. 600 to purchase of newspapers for this officer. I therefore think that it is absolutely unnecessary to keep this post.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. സി. ഇയ്യങ്കുട്ടി (Pazhanji).— സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപ ക്ഷേപത്തെ ശക്തിയായി എതിർക്കുന്നു. മഹാമനസ്സനായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഉത്തരകം മെമ്പർ അവർകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു അഭിപ്രായം പറയുമെന്നു ഞാൻ തീരെ വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസംഗം കേട്ടപ്പോൾ തീർച്ചയായും ഇതു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പറയുവാനാണ് എന്നെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. പബ്ളിസിറ്റി ഓഫീസരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂടിപ്പോയി എന്നോ മറ്റോ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനു അർത്ഥമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇതു തീരെ ആവശ്യമില്ല എന്നാണ് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞത്. അദ്ദേഹം തന്നെ പറയുന്നു മദ്രാസിലും മറ്റും പബ്ളിസിറ്റിമിനിസ്റ്റരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന്. അതുപോലെ ഒരു പരിഷ്കൃതഗവണ്മെന്റായിത്തീരണം എന്നല്ലേ നമുക്കും മോഹമുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടത്? അതിനുവേണ്ടിയല്ലേ നാം ഇപ്പോൾ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത്? അതിനായിട്ടെങ്കിലും ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ തീർച്ചയായും ആവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ നിയമനം കൊണ്ട് പലേ ഗുണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു പലേ അനുഭവങ്ങളുമുണ്ട്.

പല കള്ളപ്രസ്ഥാവനകളും ഞാൻ കടലാസിൽ നിന്നും വായിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരറിവു നമുക്കു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗം മൂലം കിട്ടുവാൻ വളരെ എളുപ്പമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഉദാഹരണമായി തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള മലയാള മനോരമ പത്രത്തിൽനിന്നു അവർക്കു നമ്മുടെ ജനറൽ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ പ്രവേശനം കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള ഒരു വർത്തമാനം കേൾക്കുവാൻ ഇടയായി. അങ്ങിനെ നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യുമെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നിയില്ല. ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാവന ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വലിയ തെറ്റിധാരണക്കു ഇടയാക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ഉടനെതന്നെ പബ്ളിസിറ്റി ഓഫീസരുടെ ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാവന ടി സംഗതിയെ ഖണ്ഡിച്ചു ഗോമതിയിൽ പരസ്യമെഴുതിക്കണ്ടു. ഇതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ആശ്വാസത്തിനു ഇടയായി. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ, നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശരിയായ നയം എന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാനായിട്ടു ഇത്തരം ഉദ്യോഗം മൂലം സാധിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ഉദ്യോഗം വേണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നതു അശേഷം തെറ്റായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. സി. വർക്കി (*Ernakulam North*).— സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. വളർത്താൻ പിടിക്കുമ്പോഴും, തീറ്റാൻ പിടിക്കുമ്പോഴും നിലവിളിക്കുന്ന ചില മൃഗങ്ങളുണ്ട്. നാം അതുപോലെ ആകരുത്. പത്രപ്രവർത്തകന്മാർക്കു ശരിയായ വിവരങ്ങളും അറിവുകളും ലഭിക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ആ ആവശ്യം നിവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഒരു പ്രസ് രൂപം അതിന്റെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ജ്യോഗസ്ഥനും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നു പത്രപ്രവർത്തകസംഘത്തിന്റെ പ്രസിഡൻറ് എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ പലപ്പോഴും കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പരേതനായ ദിവാൻബഹദൂർ ടി. എസ്സ്. നാരായണയ്യർ അവർകൾ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന കാലത്ത് പത്രപ്രവർത്തക സംഘത്തിന്റെ ഒരു നിവേദകസംഘം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പക്കൽ ചെന്ന് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട സംഗതികളിൽ ഒന്ന്, ഒരു പബ്ളിസിറ്റി ഓഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ച് പ്രെസ്സ് റൂം കൂടുതൽ കാര്യങ്ങൾ മറക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതായിരുന്നു. മേല്പറഞ്ഞ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടേഷന്റെ രോഗമായിരുന്നു ഞാൻ. പത്രങ്ങൾക്ക് ശരിയായ അറിവു ലഭിക്കുവാനും പത്രങ്ങൾ മനഃപൂർവ്വമായിട്ടല്ലാതെയോ മറുപ്രകാരത്തിലോ എന്തെങ്കിലും അബദ്ധപ്രസ്താവനകൾ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ അവയെ തിരുത്താനും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു ജ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ വേണ്ടതാണെന്നു അന്നു ഞാൻ ബലമായി വാദിച്ചു. എന്റെ ഓർമ്മ ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിന്നു ശേഷമാണ് അദ്ദേഹം പ്രസ്സ് റൂമിന്റെ ചുമതല വഹിക്കുവാനായിട്ട് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി സിക്രട്ടറിയായ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേലിനെ നിയമിക്കുകയും അതിലേക്കു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു രെലവൻസു കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നു അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ എന്നോടു ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ മുമ്പുണ്ടായ ഒരു സംഭവത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തി. കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൗൺസിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ട ആലോചനകൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു വിശ്വസ്തനായ ഒരാൾ എന്നോടു പറയുകയും ആ വിവരം ഞാൻ എന്റെ പത്രത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. തദനന്തരം അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ എന്നോടു സമാധാനം ചോദിച്ചു. നിങ്ങൾ അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമായ ആ വാർത്ത പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയതുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു വളരെയെല്ലാം വിഷമങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായെന്നും, ഈ വിവരം മദ്രാസിലുള്ള പത്രങ്ങളിലും പകർത്തുവാൻ ഇടയായതിനാൽ അവിടെയുള്ള പല മാനുഷന്മാരും അതിനെക്കുറിച്ച് എന്നോടു ഏഴുതിച്ചോദിച്ചു എന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ അന്നു അതിനു സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞതിലുപകാരമായിരുന്നു:- എനിക്ക് ഈ സംഗതി അറിവുതന്നെ വിശ്വസിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരാളും ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികൾ അറിവാൻ കഴിവുള്ള ഒരാളുമാകയാലാണ് ഞാൻ ആ വർത്തമാനം പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ഇടയായത്; ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നു ഒരു പബ്ളിസിറ്റി ഓഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ച്, ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള സംഗതികളുടെ ശരിയായ വിവരം അറിവു

തരുവാൻതക്ക ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്തിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട വർത്തമാനങ്ങൾ കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു ചോദിച്ചു സംശയം തീർക്കാമായിരുന്നു. അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യാത്തതിടത്തോളം കാലം ഞങ്ങളെ കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല; യോഗ്യനാകും, മാനുനാരുമായ ആളുകളിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന അറിവുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വർത്തമാനങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ദിവാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണയ്യർക്കു ഞങ്ങൾ തമ്മിൽ അതിനുമുമ്പു നടന്നിരുന്ന മേല്പറഞ്ഞ സംഭാഷണം ശരിയാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ ഗത്യന്തരമുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. പത്രപ്രവർത്തകന്മാരുടെ ഈ വാദത്തെ പരാമർശിച്ചാണ് പ്രസ്സ് ഓം ദൈവിധത്തിൽ ക്രമപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അതിന്റെ ചുമതല വഹിക്കാൻ ഒരു ക്ലാക്കിനെക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ടു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇങ്ങിനെ പത്രപ്രവർത്തകന്മാർ വളരെക്കാലം പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതും ആഗ്രഹിച്ചിരുന്നതുമായ ഒരു സംഗതി ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുവാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നു കേട്ടപ്പോൾ പത്രപ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ എനിക്കുള്ള താല്പര്യം നിമിത്തം ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പ്രശംസിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ കൗൺസിലിൽതന്നെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറു അവർകളുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പ്രസംഗത്തിന്നു ശേഷം ഞാൻ ചെയ്ത ബഡ്ജറ്റ് വിമർശനത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞതിങ്ങനെയാണ്:

"I have something to say in sincere appreciation of what is being proposed to be done in the matter of constituting a section in the Secretariat for publicity. Correct information on matters of policy and administration is proposed to be supplied by the Government hereafter to the Press. With that object in view, you propose to have a press room in the Huzur Secretariat, to which representatives of the Press will be invited from time to time. As the Editor of one of the long-standing papers of this State, I must acknowledge with the deepest sense of gratitude, that this is a real boon to the State. Such a publicity office was a long-felt need in this State and we are glad we are in sight of it at least now. On behalf of the Press, I wish to assure you, Sir, that you shall always have our best co-operation and support in this connection".

ഒരു പബ്ളിസിറ്റി ബ്യൂറോ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി ദിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറ് പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്തതിനെക്കുറിച്ച്—എന്റെ ഓർമ്മ ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ—സകല പത്രങ്ങളും ദിവാൻജിയെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ൧൧൧൦-മാണ്ടിലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സെഷനിലുണ്ടായ വിമർശന പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ ഒട്ടുമിക്കതും ഞാൻ വായിച്ചുനോക്കി. അതിലൊന്നിലും പബ്ളിസിറ്റി അഫീസരെ വയ്ക്കുന്നത് അബദ്ധമാണെന്നോ അനാവശ്യമാണെന്നോ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർമാർ ആരുമെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ, പത്രപ്രവർത്തകന്മാർക്കു ശരിയായ വർത്തമാനങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ആ ഏർപ്പാട് അനാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതി

നെ അനുകൂലിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ന്യായംകാണുന്നില്ല. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഉത്തരകമെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവർണ്മെൻറുകളെല്ലാം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും ചെയ്യുവാനുമാകുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണിത്.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സിവിൽലിസ്റ്റ് നോക്കിയതിൽ അവിടെ ൨൦൦ രൂപാ മുതൽ ൩൦൦ രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ ഒരു പബ്ളിസിററി ആഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കീഴിൽ ഏതാനും ഗുമസ്തന്മാരുമുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കെ കൊച്ചിയിൽ പബ്ളിസിററി ഓഫീസരെ നിയമിച്ചത് ഒരു നൂതനകാര്യമാണെന്നോ അനാവശ്യമാണെന്നോ പറയുന്നതു സ്വീകാർത്ഥമല്ല. പബ്ളിസിററി ആഫീസരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെപ്പറ്റി ആക്ഷേപിക്കുകയോ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാകുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയുകയോ ചെയ്യാൻ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുക; അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പോസ്റ്റേ വേണ്ട എന്നു പറയുന്നതിനെയാണ് ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നത്. തീർച്ചയായും പബ്ളിസിററി ആഫീസർ എന്ന ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗം ഏതൊരു പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനും ഇപ്പോൾ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. പത്രലോകത്തോടനുഭാവമുള്ളതും പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ ശരിയായ വിവരങ്ങൾ അറിയിച്ച് തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകൾ നീക്കണമെന്ന ആഗ്രഹമുള്ളതുമായ ഏതൊരു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനും ഒരു പബ്ളിസിററി ഓഫീസർ അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഞാൻ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ശക്തിയായി എതിർക്കുന്നു.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).**—Sir, I have to make only one or two observations. There are various kinds of professions a few of which are to the enjoyment of the holder. The labourer in a Tea Estate has always to sort tea. It is a very pleasing profession to read newspapers from morning till night. Yes, it is a pleasing profession. People are of different tastes. I like tea and reading newspapers. That is a great compliment to the editors. The object of this appointment is to remove any false impression created in the minds of the public by the publication of false informations. Secondly it is to give authentic information. Now, nobody is going to dispute the necessity of correcting false impression and also supplying correct information. But the question is that at a time when the Government is reduced to abject poverty as was shown yesterday in the case of the grant of a stipend of Rs. 20 to a member of the backward community you must be in a position to show us that it is an absolute necessity, an urgent and compelling necessity, to appoint a person to give correct news and correct the false news. There are now two daily papers. One always writes false news and nobody attaches any importance to it. There is another paper conducted in Erna-

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

kulam in such a businesslike manner that nobody takes any interest in it. One you cannot correct, because it is incorrigible though occasionally it praises you. Have you taken any measures to correct that paper, the paper which is run mainly to sound your praises and to sing and to dance according to your tunes? The association of the Government with this type of paper is not sound. From the way that paper appeals to the Government one would think the time is in relation to the Ministry in England.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Do the Government contradict that?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Never mind contradictions. If you want to prove it, I shall take a few copies and prove it. People have been persecuted deliberately and hopelessly and the hands of the Government are tied. The moment anybody attacks the Government, the moment one publishes a speech which was based upon facts the paper is suppressed. Why do you give a kind of treatment to a paper which always sings your praises and also indulges in the abuse of public men in season and out of season? (voices of shame, shame). Government have only to issue an order and all these expenses need not be met by the Government.

Now, Sir, as I said, in one case there is nothing to correct. The paper is so innocuous. In the 2nd case, you cannot correct it. The other papers are only papers started by churches, societies or trade unions. Now, Sir, about supplying authentic information, what you consider to be authentic and correct, we may not consider as correct and what we consider to be correct, you may not consider to be correct. That is a matter of opinion. Only rarely you consider correct what we conceive to be correct. This House will remember that we used to raise the discussion almost everyday attacking the Government most vehemently as I am doing now for showing that spirit of nepotism which betrays the administration to such an extent that even papers outside take up this matter. Now, in this matter of appointment also, you will be able to make out a case; but I suspect that at the background there is some other reason which you don't voice forth here. I will prove it. There have been many instances where considerations of personalities induced the Government to create posts. I am very blunt. I must say this thing, because I believe that by constant attacks of this nature this tendency should be curtailed. We have succeeded in some respects and I expect that we will

be able to succeed hereafter. I again deliberately make the statement, people are sometimes created for posts and sometimes posts are created for people. I believe, Sir, that the primary consideration that moved the Government for the appointment, in my humble belief and in my honest belief and my honest conviction, is not any urgent, compelling necessity but to create a post for a certain individual. That being the case, on that principle at least, I am going to support the motion.

* **Mr. M. Sivarama Menon** (*Ernakulam South*).—Mr. President, Sir, I oppose this cut motion. Before the organisation of the Publicity Department in the State, I think many people, if they only had a serious view of things in the proper light, would have thought that Cochin was dead long, long ago, because any kind of news about the Government or about the officers or about matters of interest in Cochin used to go uncontradicted and the mass when they come into contact with such things have a tendency to believe those matters to be true, so that in course of time a sort of mentality arises even among educated men to believe whatever is found in the newspaper as true and then proceed to attack. That assumption or spirit was nurtured practically by the long course of silence on the part of the Government. For instance, I have only to bring to your notice one striking instance. The correspondent of the Malayala Manorama published in that paper which has got a very wide circulation not only in British India but also in Travancore and other parts, that the Secretary to the Government of Cochin in an interview with that correspondent showed by certain signs or visible representations—whatever that may be—which could have been diagnosed by him as a sort of reticence by which he was led to infer that a promulgation by the Cochin Government that patients from Travancore should not be admitted into the General Hospital at Ernakulam was true. In the first place, there was no such order passed by the Government. And secondly, it is a matter of surprise that that correspondent had not even interviewed the Secretary to Government. On account of some particular fact or matter there might be some controversy between the two Governments. Rightly or wrongly to incite the public feelings among the subjects is the greatest disservice that newspapers can do and you will find that if news of this nature go abroad it catches the eye of the people of both the States. Are not Cochinites living abroad? Suppose

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

Cochinites seek admission to the hospitals there. Admission would be shut out to them. In such a contingency what would Cochinites think of that order? There will be a spirit of retaliation inculcated in the minds of the Travancoreans who might have occasion to believe that what is contained in the paper is true. Now suppose, when found untrue, that fact was not immediately contradicted. That would have led to a good deal of misunderstanding. Another instance came to my notice in the course of the past two or three months. There was a bit of news in some paper that the surgeon in charge of the Chalakudi hospital refused to allow a parish priest to enter into the precincts of the hospital to administer the last sacrament to one of the patients. It is very rarely that papers which contain some allegations against a department or the Government in general reach the Departmental heads. Therefore, unless and until these cuttings are brought practically to their notice specifically and in time, contradictions cannot be issued, and Heads of Departments cannot know that there are allegations. You will find enquiries were made with regard to that matter and a Press communique on that matter which originally led to a good deal of discontent was published by Government. Look at the service that the Publicity Department has done. Hitherto have we ever heard of Cochin Administration Reports of various Departments published so swiftly in the Madras papers? To choose only a few of the instances where such signal service has been rendered, I quote these instances. The Hon'ble member for Urakam began by saying that there is no necessity for such a department.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—At present.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Ernakulam South*).—When the Diwan made his opening speech in the first session of this Legislative Council, in paragraph 5 of that speech you will find that a definite statement has been made that this State is lacking in publicity and there are several consequences arising out of that and that it is a settled fact that a Publicity Department should form a necessary adjunct to the Secretariat. Excepting encomiums poured upon the Government, there was no dissentient voice offered on the floor of this House, or from the public against that. On the other hand I know we have read so many articles in the papers during that time appreciating the action of the Government. Then the question will be whether the time was ripe for the organisation of that department. If the time was not ripe, it could have been brought to the notice of the Government then and there and say "The time has not yet

arrived. We must wait for some more time". Those who have been following the trend of events in Cochin will fully realise that this department was organised and established at a time when there was the utmost necessity for it. An experiment was tried by which one clerk was placed in charge of the press room, and the representatives of the press would have realised that there is some sort of improvement now. The next question that actuated the authorities to create this department is, as I told you before, the nature of the publicity of certain falsehoods against the State. It was highly necessary not only to the representatives of newspapers but also to appeal to the minds of Cochinites that such a department should be brought into existence and if the plea is that there is no necessity at present on the ground that there is no necessity for propaganda, I ask suppose there is a political organisation. Is not a political organisation a sort of carrying on propaganda in order to achieve the object in view? Suppose there is an organisation to wrest something out of the Government. Then they must carry on an agitation and propaganda by which they will be able to agitate the people in that light and have public opinion behind them for making the demand. Even though Cochinites knew how to take care of themselves, we find, as a matter of fact, that there was some sinister motive underlying certain aspersions raised against the Government. For instance one paper contained an article to the effect that Cochin Government had issued an order to the effect that any Government officer who takes part in the temple entry movement will come to grief. I am not upon that question. But that was the sort of news that was spread. I went and ascertained whether there was such an order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know why it was not contradicted?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Ernakulam South*).—It was contradicted. I can give you the date even. I never speak without making my grounds sure. Malayalarajyam dated 20—5—1937. Now you will find from these stray instances that a very strong case has been made out because there are certain matters which go to the very root of the existence of the subjects in the State. There are certain matters such as temple entry and other important matters which will disfigure the whole atmosphere and turn the people against the Government if it is really against settled views of the people of the State. If Cochin State is to sleep on without issuing such contradictions, I really do not know whether

anybody would have thought that Cochin State is alive. I therefore strongly maintain that in this matter the Government have only done the right thing to organise the Publicity Department. Then the question is, as was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Urakam, whether the work could be attended to at a cheaper cost, whether so much salary should be paid to the officer. I think that is a matter which has to be left entirely to the discretion of the Government, because it all depends upon the importance and the efficiency of the officer. I do not for a moment think that the duties of the Publicity Officer can terminate within the four corners of the State. I should think that this department should take upon its shoulders more work in the nature of carrying on propaganda. For instance, suppose Government is against a certain political organisation or against a particular view expressed by a party. All such should be thrashed out well in the papers and then the public come to a judgment on that. If there is propaganda on one side alone and the other side remains quiet it will create evil. People may think that there are no points in favour of the other side and therefore they may go their own way, if they do not know that we have come to a correct decision. In the matter of undertaking such publicity work an ordinary clerk would be quite inadequate to meet the demands. Staff is also very necessary for a publicity officer. Government have certainly considered the requisite qualifications of the person who has been appointed. I have nothing to do with the person who has been appointed and if only the person chosen has the requisite qualification, then I do not think for a moment that the post was created for that person. The Diwan had made it clear last year that a Publicity Department was going to be organised, but it was not undertaken because Government could not afford to spend the money. My humble submission is that there is no use of the existence of Government if it is sought to be misrepresented. If Government has a fair name, then the people also have got a fair name. If it is alleged that Government is not doing things properly and if this sort of representation is made either here or outside the State where other people are interested, certainly it is the duty of this State to say what we are actually doing or what is supposed of the State to feel with regard to that matter. There must be adequate staff and the man in charge of the Publicity Department must have vast experience and I do not for a moment think that Government erred in the least in choosing the man for the post.

* **Mr. P. Govinda Menon** (*Adur*).—Mr. President, Sir, I wish to offer a few remarks about certain points which have emerged out of the discussion after the speech of the Hon'ble Member for Ernakulam. He thinks that because the Hon'ble the Diwan President in his opening speech one or two years back pointed out that he was going to start a press room in the Huzur and because this House did not object to it then and there by conduct or by acquiescence, this House must be deemed to have agreed to the suggestion then made.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Ernakulam South*).—There was no whisper against it.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Adur*).—Because we are not in the habit of criticising the speech which the President generally makes and because our speeches and our criticisms are offered when the motions come for discussion. Therefore, I believe that there is absolutely no point in the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member that because the President made such a statement and because the House did not whisper against it, the House should be deemed to have agreed to it. So far as this House is concerned, it seems to be a question of the appointment being justified by events which took place after the appointment. You will be pleased to see, Sir, that this appointment took place at a time when the press was practically gagged, because as the Hon'ble Member for Ernakulam South himself had occasion to point out in this House before that the press in this country was indulging in falsehood, was indulging in the propagation of false news, was indulging in maligning others. It was at such a time, it was in order to avert such an event that the press law was placed on the statute book. If even after that, if even after the enactment of the press law if after stifling the freedom of the press, the Government still feel that they want to do propaganda in order to have their grounds safe and sure, then I must submit that the Government stands self-condemned. The system of bureaucratic and autocratic Government is bad in itself. But the system of bureaucratic Government which wants to justify itself by propaganda, I would submit, is worse. I never believed that a representative of the people, a non-official gentleman of this House will come and eloquently plead that a bureaucratic system of Government should justify itself by propaganda should clear its grounds by propaganda. That is importing Hitlerism and the Dictatorship of Mussolini in this land. That is not at all the way in which the Government should get on.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

Now, Sir, it was pointed out that certain papers in Travancore are maligning the acts of this Government. Is it not for that particular purpose that the two papers were banned from entry into the State, by means of a Proclamation? If after having such a powerful weapon in the armoury of Government, Government still feel that in order to oppose this sort of propaganda a Publicity Officer is required, I should submit, does not hold water for a moment. That is why I submitted that the Member for Ernakulam South was trying to justify the appointment by events which occurred after the appointment. I should think that if there are falsehoods, if there are false accusations against Government, press communiques as it was the practice of this Government would be sufficient to meet such things. The Member for Ernakulam North with his vast journalistic experience was telling this House that it is necessary in order to promote journalism that there should be an officer of Government who will be prepared to tell them about the policies, programmes and intentions of the Government. I should think that the Hon'ble Member's vast experience in journalism did not help him when he made that statement. If he thinks that this Government will divulge to him a single matter which it is not the intention of the Government to publish in the official Gazette, then he is sadly mistaken. Does he think that the Government is going to tell him, their policies, their programmes, their intentions, if they are not, as a matter of fact, going to publish it in the Government Gazette? Things of a pure water type "പച്ചവെള്ളംപോലെ" will be divulged to the journalists. If as a matter of fact it is the intention of the Government say for example to do something towards constitutional reform, does my Hon'ble friend think that the Publicity Officer is going to divulge anything to him? Then he is sadly mistaken.

Sir, it was suggested that in Travancore there is a Publicity Officer. I think that it would be useful to this House if I divulge a very humorous incident which took place in Travancore on account of the Publicity Officer. Do you know how this Publicity Officer contradicts statements made by journalists? Suppose for example there is a statement, say in the Gomathi that Mr. Govinda Menon went to Trichur at 10 o'clock on the 21st of Karkatagam. Then, only one of the components to make that statement might be wrong. For example I might have gone at 9 o'clock. The Publicity Officer contradicts by saying "the statement contained in the Gomathi that Mr. Govinda Menon went there at 10 o'clock on the 21st is false", and there he stops. That is how the Publicity Officer generally

contradicts these statements. One Mr. G. Sankaran Nair once went to Munnar and stayed with the Diwan Sir Habibulla somewhere in Government buildings and in the Alwaye Station a press representative went to him and he gave out to the press representative that he stayed as a Government guest in Government quarters in Munnar. Somehow, the Travancore Government thought at that time that it is not proper that this news that Mr. Sankaran Nair stayed as a State guest there should be published to the outside world. Therefore, the Publicity Officer of Travancore at once published a contradiction saying that the news in the Malayalarajyam dated so and so in column so and so—the news was not published—is false. After that a very strong and raging controversy took place in the Travancore papers for over a month as to whether Mr. Sankaran Nair was a State guest or not. Columns after columns of papers were spent and it was a humorous event indeed and it was only after Mr. Chenganasseri Parameswaran Pillai later said something about the Nair organisations there that that controversy stopped, because they took up that controversy as to what Mr. Chenganasseri Parameswaran Pillai said was correct or not. So that with all the efforts of the Publicity Officer of Travancore who is drawing a pay of more than Rs. 300 this controversy is still going on and the public are not more enlightened whether Mr. Sankaran Nair was a State guest or not. As a matter of fact, I do not even now know whether he was a State guest. That is the sort of publicity which these Publicity Officers are giving to the outside world. I would not have opposed this measure if this had taken place at a time when we had a free press. When we have not got the liberty, when we are fettered hand-and-foot in having free journals and a free press, for the Government to have an unfettered officer there to propagate and to contradict news and all those things, I humbly beg to submit, is not fair.

Speaking about the Press Law in England, one famous writer wrote on the day previous to the date on which the press law was to come into operation "Today we shall be writing the last independent views which we are going to write". Before the Press Act was placed on the statute book in Cochin, I remember one very honourable journalist wrote a leader in which he said all that he had to say. He did not publish any other news. Only the leading article was there. He wrote against the Government, against the people and against what all things came in his mind and concluded by saying "I am not saying all these things in future, because from tomorrow

onward forward I cannot say." When that is the state of affairs, when the press is chained hand and foot, the Government to carry on merrily propagating its news, I should think, is very unfair. The Publicity Officer's position is very envious indeed. If a newspaper publishes anything about me, I can send a letter to the newspaper contradicting that statement. The Publicity Officer's statements appear in some papers. I do not think they are even published in the Gazette. If we want to contradict that, it is not possible. So, here is a sort of unilateral publicity for the Government. I submit that that is not desirable. Therefore, I think under the present circumstances no Publicity Officer is required for the Government of Cochin.

Mr. K. S. Manickam (*Irinjalakuda*).—Mr. President, Sir, it appears to me paradoxical that the Hon'ble Member for Urakam, Mr. Ikkanda Warriar—a staunch congressman by himself—brings this token cut when the creed to which he belongs has established a ministry for publicity in the neighbouring province of Madras.

He prefaced his speech by saying that the Department of Publicity is one of the most luxurious appendages of modern Governments? Is he not accusing his own party in power in indulging in luxury which they are not entitled to? Is he not accusing them and at the same time saying that well established ministries have publicity?

Sir, there has been a tendency in this House to quote precedents from the neighbouring provinces of Madras, from the sister State of Travancore, from the sister State of Mysore when questions of such a nature crop up. The Madras Province has established a ministry for Publicity. An officer has been appointed in Travancore for publicity. There is a Publicity Officer in Mysore.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Not with the object of propaganda.

Mr. K. S. Manickam (*Irinjalakuda*).—All modern Governments outside these provinces have also Publicity Departments of their own.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Is our Government a modern one?

Mr. K. S. Manickam (*Irinjalakuda*).—It is, Sir. The importance of this Publicity Department and the gravity attached to the post will be brought home to the minds of all the

members present here, if I cite one instance. The Government of India in these days of acute cry for Indianisation of all the Departments under it have gone to the extent of requisitioning the services of Mr. Joyce an Englishman, as the Chief Publicity Officer of the Government of India. Why?

Sir, The Government of India attaches more importance to the Publicity Department, because they feel that they should not be bound by parochial views. Speakers before me belonging to my party—the Hon'ble Leader and the Deputy Leader—have reiterated the necessity of appointing a Publicity Officer and the necessity for creating this department. One of the misconceptions under which members of the other party are labouring is that this Publicity Department is created with the motive of carrying on propaganda for the Government. I tell them—

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—That is what your leader said.

Mr. K. S Manickam (*Irinjalakuda*).—there is a great defect in the understanding capacity of the Hon'ble Members of the opposite party which has been evinced in this House on more than one occasion. Sir, this defect in their capacity to understand has been brought very clearly before this House even at the question hour when an Hon'ble Member belonging to this party took great pains to make himself understandable. At every stage he had to interrogate whether he did not make himself clearly understood. The Hon'ble the leader of my party never said what they now impute to him he said. I can assure them on behalf of my party that the idea in appointing this Publicity Officer is not to carry on propaganda on behalf of the Government. A wave of political consciousness has swept over the masses that they have now begun to evince an anxiety to know at first hand the policy of the Government—the policy of the Government in the carrying on of the administration of the day. Today the Government and the public at large have been feeling, that without the aid of a department which will give first hand information about the policy of the Government in its true colours, the same will be discoloured by interested pressmen and irresponsible demagogues. The Government thus thought it fit to appoint a Publicity Officer. This idea of appointing a Publicity Officer was in the mind of Diwan as early as when he delivered his Budget speech in the year 1110 Karakatakam. Ever since that, to my best knowledge, neither on the floor of this House nor in the press or in public platforms have

I ever heard a whisper against the idea that originated in the mind of the Diwan and which was given expression to by him on the floor of this House. Mr. P. Govinda Menon, the Member for Adur says that they were not expected to criticise the President's speech. If they think that they are not empowered or it is not their duty to criticise the speech of the President delivered on the occasion of the Budget in which the President generally enunciates the policy of the Government, they have misunderstood their own power. They have got every right to criticise the policy of the Diwan and the Government adumbrated in the speech of the Diwan at the opening of the Budget Session. He should have taken the opportunity that was presented to him then and there. To come at a late stage when the Publicity Office has been established to question the necessity for the same because A was appointed or B was appointed is beneath the prestige and dignity of this House. The question before the House is only whether there is necessity for the appointment. The necessity has been made out amply both by the leader of the party to which I have the honour to belong and by the Hon'ble the Deputy Leader. In my opinion there is ample necessity for the creation of a department of the type referred to in the cut motion, and I believe the Government is fully justified in appointing a Publicity Officer and in creating a staff for him. I oppose this cut motion.

Mr. President.—The House stands adjourned to half past two.

The House rose for lunch at 1-5 p. m. and reassembled at 2-30 p. m. with the Deputy President (M. R. Ry., A. Sankara Menon Ayl., B. A. & B. L.) in the Chair.

Mr. George Parakkal (Narakkal).—This question has been stressed at length on the floor of this House. I have only to say a word in this connection. There was a suggestion thrown out that the post was created for a man. I beg to submit that it is not so because as early as in 1110 this post was contemplated and for financial reasons or otherwise the Government did not create that post. But when they found it was imperative that this post should be created, a proper man was appointed to the post. That is all that I have to say. With these few words I oppose the motion.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).—I move for a closure of this debate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).— So far as the necessity for the creation of this Department is concerned the Hon'ble mover of this motion himself feels no doubt whatever and rightly too as he himself belongs to a party which after it has recently assumed the reins of Government elsewhere thought it fit to create a ministry, not even an office, but a full blown ministry for the Department of Public information. That clearly shows that that responsible Government thought that this was a subject which should be given the utmost importance by any Government. So far as our Government is concerned, the only fault is that it has anticipated what a Government elsewhere has considered fit only now. This subject has engaged the attention of the Government some two or three years back and as soon as the present Diwan took upon himself the reins of administration, he announced to this House in his first opening speech itself that he was going to establish a separate Department of this, because there was real necessity for it. In this connection, I would like if it is permissible, to refer the attention of the Hon'ble Members of this House to the memorable words spoken by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore at the time of His investiture with ruling powers that if that Government lacked anything, it was only publicity. So that so far as the necessity for the establishment of this Department is concerned there cannot be two opinions on that matter. Now so far as the functions that the officer who is in charge of the Department is expected to exercise, they are three fold. The Hon'ble Members who spoke against as also in support of this motion have only adverted to one aspect of the matter and that aspect is to give correct information of the actions of the Government and the policies which the Government are going to follow, to remove any misconception in the minds of the public so far as that is concerned. That is as it were only the external aspect of the matter. There is an equally important aspect namely the internal one. However irresponsible a Government may be, there is importance so far as this aspect is concerned. It is necessary for any Government whether it is a responsible Government, or whether it is an absolutely despotic Government to know what others think of that actions of the Government. There must be an organised Department to keep the Government informed how it is being looked at by the outside public as also by the Press.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).— Not for checking information about themselves.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).— I can only repeat what the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakuda said with reference to the interruption viz., I do not object. I shall not be perturbed.

So far as that matter is concerned it appears to the Government that this is a very important aspect of the matter viz., what others think of the actions of the Government, and what the public think about them so that the Government may adjust itself to the wishes of the people also.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—That has never been the habit.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).— These are two important aspects of the matter which have been exercising in the minds of other modern civilized Governments, so that I think there cannot be any reason for doubt about the necessity or justification for this Department. Now one Hon'ble Member was saying that this was only necessary where a free press existed but where the Government has been muzzling the Press and gagging it and all that, there was no such necessity. Now this takes us to the so-called Press Act which is in force here. All the Hon'ble Members of the House will realise that so far as our Press Law is concerned it is only a copy of what is existing elsewhere and so far as Free Press and all that is concerned, is such a state of things existing in what you now point out as the millenium that has dawned on the other side of Shoranur. It was only some two weeks back that I read in the newspapers that that Government was demanding a security of Rs. 1000 from one Ramaswamy Naicken with reference to a paper that was being conducted by him. And did that Government think that a Publicity Officer was necessary. It was only recently that a whole Department itself was created. To say that there is no free press, that the voice of the public is gagged etc. is nothing but exaggeration and a travesty of truth. In the course of the discussion, one of the Hon'ble Members was saying that one Press was actually gagged. If I remember aright, I think he was referring to the paper Keralan. What was done with the paper Keralan is that its security was ordered to be forfeited. Anybody who has glanced through the provisions of this Act knows that there is a provision for the executive order being questioned in a Court of Law and that by the Highest Court in the land. In fact the editor of the Keralan took the matter to the Chief Court but left it there without pressing the matter further.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).—Do you give us money? There is a Government Advocate who conducts cases on your behalf.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—Who gave the money to prefer the appeal?

The argument that if only there is a Free Press then only there is necessity for a Publicity Officer I must respectfully submit to this House is unsound and unfounded. Is there a Free Press in Travancore? Don't you find a Publicity Officer there? Is there responsible Government in the State of Mysore? Don't you find a Publicity Officer there also? Then there were other arguments.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).—When the Government was pleading poverty to give a scholarship of Rs. 20, when they were pleading to that extent they had money to give Rs. 2000.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—Government have not sufficient funds to spend on nation building departments. It is in such circumstances that a Publicity Officer is keenly felt because we must know what are the essential needs of the Public. It is well known that Government could know these things only through the elected representatives. You, the elected representatives only come here occasionally in the course of the year.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (Pāzhayannur).—And that for nothing.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—It is for you to say whether you come here for nothing or not. It is in such circumstances that the necessity is keenly felt for knowing the needs of the people and so far as that matter is concerned, during the short term of the 2 months during which that office has been working, there have been 500 cuttings sent to the various Departments for their information as regards the working of their respective Departments. This is an actual necessity. The Heads of Departments should know what the people feel so far as their departments are concerned. I may tell the Hon'ble Members that Departmental Heads have been applying their minds to the various complaints or criticisms that are being levelled against their actions. It would have been impossible for the Government or the Departments to ascertain how they have been conducting themselves but for the Publicity officer. So that there cannot be any doubt

so far as this matter is concerned that the appointment is a fully justified one. I would like to mention only one other factor more in this connection. The attack was made by the Hon'ble Member for Pallipuram that the post was created for a particular individual, I repudiate that charge altogether.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallipuram).—I do maintain that.

Deputy President.—Order, order.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—To say that the post was created for a particular individual is, I submit, an absolute falsehood.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallipuram).—He says that is falsehood. Is this Parliamentary Sir? I rise to a point of order.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—I withdraw.

Deputy President.—He has already withdrawn.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—That was an incorrect statement. What I submit is, Government had already in contemplation the appointment of a Publicity Officer. The individual that was appointed was found to be the best fitted, under every circumstance, to discharge this function and he was selected. To say that because there was a man and he had to be provided with a post is not correct at all.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—We maintain that it so.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—That is a matter of opinion. But the Government maintain a different attitude altogether so far as that matter is concerned.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—That is natural.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—The one is as natural as the other. I do not wish to say anything further so far as this matter is concerned.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (Urakam).—Sir, I do not wish to add much to what has been said by the members who spoke in support of my motion. What is the use of quarrelling with those who hug to themselves the idea that the appointment of a Publicity Officer alone was lacking to bring Cochin into line with all the civilised modern democratic countries in the world?

The reasons advanced by the Hon'ble Members for Ernakulam North and South do not appeal to me. A clerk or a Superintendent of the Huzur could have been asked to attend to this work if the matter is so serious as to leave it unattended would have brought harm to the fair name of the State. I am not surprised at the vehemence and enthusiasm shown by the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakuda, although I do believe that it is worthy of a better cause. I have no quarrel with the person appointed. I maintain that the appointment should have been made after taking the opinion of this Council or after taking the opinion of the Retrenchment Committee which was in session then. I do not stand in the way of Government contradicting false reports in papers if they are false. But in spite of all that I heard to the contrary I still believe that there is no necessity for the creation of a post like this. But I wish to tell the Government, before I conclude, that it is the unkindest cut of all to maintain that there is a free press in the Cochin State now. If I can think of one justification for the appointment of a Publicity Officer, it is this. It is that deplorable state of affairs now existing in the State, a State which was reputed to be one of the most advanced countries with a civil service which was one of the most efficient in all States of India which has compelled the Government to call in aid the condition existing in some of the most mismanaged States in North India for purposes of comparison to justify their misdeeds here. This has really been an eye-opener to the public. With these few words, I press this motion to a division.

Motion was put and negatived.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallipuram).—Poll, Sir.

POLL.

Ayes.

1. Mr. P. Govinda Menon.
2. „ K. M. Ibrahim.
3. „ E. Ikkanda Warriar
4. „ C. R. Iyyunni.
5. „ T. K. Nayar.
6. „ V. K. Krishnankutty.
7. „ M. K. Kunhimoideen.
8. „ P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
9. „ K. T. Mathew.
10. „ T. A. Ramchandra Ayyar.

Noes.

1. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.
2. „ P. J. Alexander.
3. „ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
4. „ M. V. Cherian.
5. „ A. L. Devassy.
6. „ George Parakkal
7. „ P. J. George.
8. „ T. C. Iyyukutty.
9. „ Shabdai S. Koder.
10. „ V. K. Kutty.

Ayes

11. Dr. A. R. Menon.
12. Mr. K. S. Panicker.

Noes

11. „ K. P. Kannan Nayar.
12. „ K. Krishna Warriar.
13. „ V. S. Krishnan Vaidyan.
14. „ K. S. Manickam.
15. „ A. Narayana Menon.
16. „ I. N. Menon.
17. „ K. Narayana Menon.
18. „ T. Narayana Menon.
19. „ E. F. Normap.
20. „ Rama Varmha Tampuran.
21. „ M. A. Sankunni.
22. Miss. G. M. D'Souza.
23. Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.
24. Dr. E. S. R. Menon.
25. Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.
26. „ Thomas Manjuran
27. „ A. V. Moothedan..
28. „ P. C. Varkey.

Motion was therefore lost.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—“*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To criticise the Government in their overlooking the claims of persons who have acted when permanent vacancies arise*”.

The point raised speaks for itself. The question is whether the Government of Cochin have done it. If the reply to that question is in the affirmative, then the Government stands self-condemned, because they have violated their own creature—the Standing Order No. 16. The Standing Order No. 16 reads as follows: “An acting appointment should be made with as much care as a permanent one since an acting man in a post will deem himself to have the first claim when a permanent vacancy occurs.” The Standing Order says, Sir, that when an acting post is filled up the Government should take as much good care as they would when they are filling up a permanent vacancy for the natural and simple reason that the acting hand will consider himself as having a preferential claim over others to get the post when a permanent vacancy arises. In other words, the acting hand gets a lien for that appointment.

If that is so, and if the Standing Order has been violated by the Government, the Government, as I said before, stands condemned. How joyous and how hopeful the acting hand is made by the Standing Order. Truly the S. O. is made with a purpose, the purpose being that the man who acts should work with diligence holding out to him the guarantee that when the post becomes permanent he gets it permanently for him. How beautiful and reasonable the idea behind the S. O. is and how flagrantly it is violated! I charge the Government of Cochin for having flagrantly violated their own orders. I cannot put it in any other milder language. You cannot contradict it and my case is proved through these instances. There are a legion of them. Here is the case of the appointment of a Superintendent of the Huzur Secetariat drawing a salary of Rs. 100—150. It is a good post for an ordinary gentle-man living under Cochin conditions to conduct himself like a gentle-man, meeting all his needs and even luxuries and saving for a lean day. Envidable post indeed! And when a man is appointed to that acting post in an acting arrangement, when he returns to his original permanent post when the acting arrangement is over he will always be looking up to that, because of your own Standing Order. He feels in his mind that the next time this post falls vacant he is sure to get it because our Government tells him so. Sticking to that hope a man works in his permanent place with as much diligence as will ensure to him the other post when it falls vacant because he should see that he does not get a blackmark in his permanent place. The object of the Standing Order is that members of the service should be induced—I do not use the word 'compelled'—to work in such a way with a feeling that their service is secure, that their promotions are secure, that better days are in store for them. That is the object underlying the Standing Order. Now, to such a post, Sir, one fine morning a gentleman having absolutely no lien is posted and posted how, Sir, posted permanently on the maximum salary of that post viz. Rs. 150. I do not propose to anticipate the Government in their reasons for so doing. Here is another case more flagrant—more flagrant I say—because the case is one where a gentleman happened to be a favoured one, who comes into the service two years back on a post of Rs. 40—60 in the capacity of a clerk in the Income-tax Department. That lucky man because of certain other things which it is not for me now to describe finds himself posted in a place which carries a munificent sum of Rs. 80—100. This time it is gratifying to note that the man is not appointed on the maximum but only on the minimum. Look, Sir, the gentleman who started life as a clerk on

Rs. 40—60 within 2 years finds himself not only at its maximum, which he could ordinarily reach only 4 years hence not only at the maximum of the next higher grade, i. e. 60—80, but at the minimum of the 3rd higher grade, i. e. Rs. 80—100. How lucky! I don't wish to name the person. You know him. Comments are also unnecessary to be made. He is there in the grade of Rs. 80—100 within 2 years of starting service. The reason, I say, Sir, is that he happens to be the son of X or Y. He finds himself posted as the Head Clerk of a certain important office with very great responsibility which was the subject-matter of one question this morning. But Sir, the Government were not able to understand the purport of that question. Viewed from his standpoint, very happy for the man selected. But what is the position of the man who has served the Government of Cochin for a longer number of years and served with all the earnestness, with all the honesty that man is capable of and who had acted before and under the S. O? Did the Government ever consider that? Were they not bound to consider that on their own Standing Order and if they have not considered, do they not stand condemned? Is it not graceful for you gentlemen of the Treasury Benches to admit your guilt and plead guilty and pray for mercy at the hands of the non-officials? I think the Government will do it and we will be prepared to condone for once this culpable neglect—this criminal attitude of theirs. Would you plead in the proper language so that we may see our way to help you to improve? Would you persist in your Criminal Act? I hope not. With these words, I place this cut motion for the serious consideration not only of the non-officials but also of the official block because after all they are only of us and belong to us. I do not find it necessary, Sir, to cite more instances and I will sit down making an earnest appeal to the Hon'ble the Secretary with whom it was our privilege to associate on this side of the House a few years ago and about whose promotion viewed from one stand point we congratulate him as also ourselves but viewed from the other stand-point he has become, Sir, the target of our attacks. We pity him, Sir, he has, indeed become the target of our criticism. We are disappointed, Sir, with the ways of the Government. Our hope now is in the Secretary to the Government of Cochin. I appeal to him to give the Government of Cochin through its highest executive officer such good advice for which you are posted there—such good advice as will mend matters before it is too late. It is hoped, Sir, that the Hon'ble Secretary will succeed in this work. I am sorry, Mr. President, that I have used rather strong words. It is, however, let me assure you, Sir, not with any

malicious intent that I have done so. It is because of the feelings that I have for the Government of Cochin, for the good name of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, that I speak in this strain. Excuse me if I have offended any one of you. I place this motion before the House.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** (*Pallippuram*).—I rise to support this motion. The Hon'ble mover has made out a very strong case in support of his motion. And I know personally such things would take place. Of course, the Government will be in a position to give us some sort of answer. After all is said and done, it is our duty to see in a general way as far as it lies within us that every one must be treated according to the rules and regulations laid down in the matter of promotions. Because somebody was in the good books of Government you should not make any infringement of these rules. So far as I remember, for the last 13 years in the Council, the same complaint has been made year after year and Government have been going on in the same way. I fail to see why you should not rectify, why you expose yourself to these persistent attacks. Why not with your eyes shut follow the procedure laid down by the rules. I can understand the few cases that he has made reference to. I am not going to mention the names here. Both these cases are flagrant violation of the rules framed by the Government. Don't be under the impression that anybody has any interest in these. You begin your illegalities, your irregularities even among yourselves. Generally, you are a body of officials. There may be some sort of interest among the highest and the lowest. When even among your own followers you are not meeting out justice, can we expect of getting equal justice at your hands. Therefore, cultivate the habit of doing legal things among yourselves, then extend to us in course of time. We want to guard against that barefaced partiality. Whether you have known it, whether I am speaking falsehood or not, every one in this State knows that in some of these cases you are actuated by motives. We do not want to perpetuate things of this kind. Personally I make no difference whatsoever, whoever the man be. Let that be clearly understood. There is no need to hide anything. I pray and trust that this kind of things will not be indulged in in future and there will not be any necessity for us, respectable and honourable gentlemen, to call to order and to call to do their duty in a more proper way. Year after year, you expose yourselves to this sort of attacks. I hope we have spoken enough on this subject and it would

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

have a decided effect. In the light of this, I request the Hon'ble Member to withdraw the motion.

• **Mr. C. R. Iyyunni** (*Trichur South*).—I wish to say one word. I simply want to point out to the Council one or two sentences from the speech delivered by the President Diwan.

"Whatever might be the view taken regarding the reduction in the general level of the salaries Government cannot agree to reduce the salaries of officers who are already holding permanent posts. I am sure that this decision will be endorsed by every right thinking public man in the State. When once the security of the service is jeopardised, you will cut at the root of efficiency and contentment which are the basis of the civil services all over the world".

The Diwan President appears to be very anxious when a small cut in the salary is suggested. He should have been a little more anxious in the case of those people whose claim according to the Standing Orders is so clearly expressed in the Regulation. The anxiety which has been shown when writing this address is not at all visible when the claims of ever so many acting officers for permanent vacancies have been overlooked. Certainly, it is time that greater importance is attached at the time when acting vacancies are filled up. Now, of course, it cannot be denied that these are very serious matters, especially in the case of small-salaried officers. If the Government will not do justice by the side of officers whom they have appointed and who look up to the Standing Orders as guarantees for regular promotions provided they do their work efficiently, certainly the service will get itself discontented with the result that the efficiency will be seriously jeopardised. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad*).—This subject is a very delicate one and if one makes it a point to study the question and present it in fuller details one may have to encounter so many difficulties afterwards. As soon as this subject attracted my attention, I had the audacity at that time—I say that it was not an audacity—to send certain questions to this Council viz. to give statistics of promotions made to the posts carrying a pay of Rs. 100 and above during the last two years also stating whether anybody had acted for that post before. Unfortunately my question which was taken up

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

by the President of the Legislative Council was disallowed by the Diwan under a peculiar section. That question was deemed to be an abuse of the power of questioning. I think the Diwan in the President prevailed on that question.

Deputy President.—The Hon'ble Member must confine his remarks to the motion before the House.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad*).—I am making the House understand that if the answer to that question had been ready we would have been placed in a better position to understand how the matter stands. If we go wrong in our criticisms Government have to thank themselves, because they were not polite enough to give the answers to these questions. As I said before, the matter is a very delicate one. We have absolutely no quarrel with those happy beings who are able to jump over their seniors nor have we any sympathy for those unhappy beings whose matter is not looked into or considered by the proper authorities. But at any rate when one sees an injustice there is always that mentality to speak it out. When curious things happen some feelings develop and we have to speak out the thing, as in the case of King Midas who developed Ass's ears and did not see it himself. His own beloved queen spoke out that thing to the walls. The walls heard and the matter spread. The same mentality pricks us and we have only to speak out. The arguments which the Government may advance in reply to this is the argument of efficiency. I will at once state that this argument of efficiency might have been present to the framers of the Service Regulations also and they might have thought it necessary to check this cloak of efficiency. The authorities would open the door to favouritism and nepotism. A check has been laid by section 16 of the Service Regulations and the Standing Orders. Sir, we would request the Government to draw their attention to this matter very seriously since it is becoming almost a scandal. I do not know what the service itself feels about it. We must naturally guess what they feel. With these few words I support the motion.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—So far as this motion is concerned the Hon'ble mover has been pleased to point out two glaring instances as an illustration of the proposition put forward that the Government have been flagrantly violating the service rules with reference to promotions. He said that one who had absolutely no lien for a Superintendent's post in the Huzur was appointed there in a permanent vacancy and he was given the maximum of Rs. 150.

If I understand him correctly he must have evidently been referring to the appointment of the Legislative Council Secretary Mr. Mathew. This House knows full well that the gentleman in question was holding an appointment which carried a salary of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and he had reached Rs. 190 in that grade. No doubt it was not a permanent appointment.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Was it a case of promotion, Sir?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—When the Legislative Council Secretary's post was abolished with the reorganisation of the Huzur Secretariat and when one of the Deputy Secretaries had to be put in charge of that section also, the Government thought and naturally thought that it would be hard to deprive the individual in question who was already in service for a number of years and doing satisfactory work and getting Rs. 190, as pay, of his post. It was for this reason that he was appointed as Superintendent and given Rs. 150. He had every qualification for that and I do not think that in this particular case the service rules have been flagrantly violated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Was he not in actual service and was he not practising also at the time?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—When he was appointed as Superintendent he had to give up his practice. Before that he was allowed to practice but when he was appointed to the permanent post he was not allowed to practice. These considerations strongly urged upon the Government to give the maximum.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—Is not the Legislative Council Secretary's post only for three years?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—Though it was not a permanent place he was there for a number of years. The second instance also appears to my friend to be an infringement of the rules. That clerk was on the grade of Rs. 40—60 in the Income Tax Department while the Income Tax Department was under the Diwan Peishkar. Subsequently the Income Tax Department was separated and then he was appointed as head clerk in the Income Tax Commissioner's office in the grade of Rs. 60—80 which is the next grade to which that officer could be promoted. A man on Rs. 40—60 quite naturally aspires to the next higher grade viz. Rs. 60—80 and

the next higher promotion that he could be given is Rs. 80—100. So that there is no violation of the rules. This is what the rule says. "An acting appointment should be made with as much care as a permanent one since the acting man in possession will deem himself to have the first claim when a permanent vacancy occurs". Government does not say that the acting hand will have a lien. Government thinks that the acting man in possession is likely to have the expectation that he will be confirmed in that. He has not got any lien. There is no absolute rule that simply because he has acted on a previous occasion, when a permanent vacancy occurs, he will be the only claimant or the first claimant. It is only the acting man in possession and not the man who has acted and who has not been acting; so that so far as the instances are concerned, I do not think the charge that is now levelled against the Government is justified.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—Now, Sir, my work is made quite easy. I can effectively answer the Hon'ble Member who represents the Government. Now two answers have been given. For a question of my Hon'ble friend for Pallipuram, for a pointed question from him, you tell us that he was a part time officer appointed to the Council and occupying that seat for 26 days in the year. It is only on these 26 days in the year that he could not attend to his work in court. What is his work on the other days of the year. He has to receive all the papers that we foolishly send up to him, sort them, take them to the Diwan of Cochin who is also the President of the Council take his orders as to which of the questions will be accepted and which of the unpleasant ones have to be thrown out and then send up these papers to the Secretariat. Thirdly he has to correct the speeches of ours foolishly made again if we ourselves do not care to correct them. The proof reading will be done by the Head Clerk. It is not a pensionable post. He can attend to his business in the Chief Court or wherever he likes. This is the kind of work that he was doing. It was stated that, when the post of this so called officer was abolished by our Diwan soon after he took charge, this gentleman was without employment and that is held out as a justification for his appointment and for giving him the maximum of the grade. The question is do these circumstances justify. No they do not. Is it said that he gets a lien higher than those that acted before. No.

It was stated that No. 2 was started on 40 to 60 and with the reorganisation of the Income tax department Government was forced to appoint him on 60 to 80. This indeed

is a curious argument. I ask, Sir, were there no men in service with equal or higher qualifications drawing a higher grade of pay than this officer? It is not a single somersault, that he performed but a double one at it. It is a man of two years' service reaching 60—80 when men of 10 and 12 years service or even more are rotting in lower scales. Can injustice be more severe, can favouritism be more flagrant. There are a number of cases like this but I do not want to mention them as these two flagrant cases clearly establish my charge. Before I finish I have to make a request to the Government of Cochin. It may be suspected how the Hon'ble Member got this information and action may be taken against those persons who may be innocent. We have got a right to see that public service is not deteriorated and the rights of individuals are not jeopardised. I have but done my duty. Let not the innocents be made to suffer for that. I have once more to make an appeal to you to plead guilty where you are guilty. There is grace in admitting one's faults. Don't stand upon false prestige. When you do a thing do it gracefully and then you will have the support of all the non-official members and they will be all one with you. I have told the Government what the matter is. My object in moving the cut is not to defeat them, not to insult them, but to instruct them to behave better in future. And so let me seek leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—“To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To initiate a debate on the Retrenchment Committee Report”.

Sir, perhaps, the Government is under the impression that because a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed the report of that Committee is the last word on retrenchment. My submission is that it is not so. The Retrenchment Committee report is incomplete, proper investigations have not been made by the Committee and full evidence has not been taken. First of all the evidence taken was confined only to officials. Why did they not take evidence from non-officials or retired Government Officials who would have been able to give valuable suggestions to the Committee? In the order of reference appointing the Committee it was stated that “the Committee will for this purpose be entitled to summon any departmental Head to give evidence”. Why the Committee

was not authorized to take evidence from non-officials? The Government officers would never say that retrenchment is possible because they are the people who ask for additional staff. Secondly this Committee was appointed to make specific recommendations for retrenchment. There is no use of making a general statement that retrenchment is possible. The Committee has not made any such definite and important recommendations. On page 8 of the Report the following statement occurs, with regard to retrenchment among the professors in the College:—“Though we are not in possession of the details regarding the distribution of work amongst them (professors) we consider that some reduction in their number can be made by insisting on their working for the maximum number of hours fixed by the University”. What is this recommendation? It is as vague as possible. The Committee ought to have examined the Principal of the College and got all the detailed information about the work of each professor. For these reasons, this Report is of no value and it is not the last word on retrenchment. But my Hon'ble friends Dr. A. R. Menon and Mr. P. C. Varkey have given some valuable suggestions. Again with regard to reduction of salary it was stated that the Committee was not able to come to a unanimous decision. Is there any subject on which unanimity is possible, under the Sun? The Committee ought to have shown what was the majority opinion. As it is, it is a very wonderful finding. What has the Committee done apart from making two or three minor recommendations like the Printed Forms to be made of a uniform type, regarding municipal surveyors and so on? After all there is nothing at all in this report. The report is incomplete. Evidence taken is partial. Recommendations on major issues vague.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (Vyttila).—About this Committee's work I have stated elaborately in commenting upon the Budget. I believe that when the Government go into the matter they would examine all the recommendations of this House. One point I left out in discussing this report, and that is about the salary cut of the Officers. I submit we have got a very strong case for effecting salary cuts. Income in almost all the professions, both learned and others, has been hard hit in recent years. Whether the Government press for it or not, it is but graceful on the part of the Heads of Departments to surrender a part of their salary; I believe that as patriotic men they would come forward and say that they yield a good percentage of their salary. The income of an average non-official has been considerably hit by the depression. As one member stated yesterday

you should not look at questions of prestige on the basis of the emoluments you get. Rs. 30,000 is not a small amount. We are pressed for funds for nation building departments. If you yield 10 or 15 per cent of your salary, it would be a good move and the rural population will thank you. I appeal to those on the treasury block to come forward and tell the Government that they are prepared to yield a portion of their salary, whether the Government compel them or not.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—So far as the Government position is concerned they are considering the recommendations of the Committee and those recommendations that are considered to be acceptable, will be accepted. The complaint is that the retrenchment committee report is incomplete and that it should not be considered as the last word. Government do not want to say that it is the last word. If there is any other thing worthy of consideration, Government will consider the same.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Anthikad*).—The cut motion is tabled to initiate a debate. If it is passed will we have a debate.

Deputy President.—No.

Motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 4.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Secretariat Establishment by Re. 1. To urge upon the Government the necessity of having at least one Debt Conciliation Board for the northern Taluks of the State inclusive of Chittur".

Mr. President, the motion speaks for itself. The Diwan has been pleased to state in his opening speech that the question of having or not having a board will depend upon the good work that the Board which has already been established will be showing. I have only to submit that our getting a board should not be made to depend upon the good working of the existing Board. If the Board is not functioning properly here we cannot be considered at fault. It would be just like writing the judgment before trying the case? Why not you be impartial? Why not give a similar Board for us also? Why don't you try the experiment there also simultaneously with the south. My humble prayer is that you may be pleased to grant us a Debt Conciliation Board and not tell as the Diwan has, in the above speech,

told us. The amount provided for the working of one Board is a very small amount compared with the other bigger amounts that you spend for useless things. Why not spend Rs. 3500 more for a Board. Therefore I request the Government to give us of the northern Taluks also a certain sum for a board and thus help us who have been mostly instrumental in bringing this bill here. The Bill was moved by my poor self.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—I second it.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (Pazhayannur).— ഈ ബില്ലിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എന്താണ് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റുസിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ ഒരു അനുഭോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പർ ആയി ഈ ഭാഗത്തു ഇരുന്ന കാലത്തുതന്നെ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നായിരിക്കും.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻനായർ (Secretary to Government).— ഇല്ല, ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (Pazhayannur).— ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ എന്താണ് അതിനടുത്ത അവസരത്തിൽ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണ് ഈ ബില്ലിന്റെ ലക്ഷ്യം. ഇതുവളരെ പഴക്കം ചെന്ന ഈ സംഗതിക്കു അടുത്ത കാലത്തു ഗവണ്മെന്റുസെഡിൽനിന്നും ഒരു ബില്ലു കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അതു കൊണ്ടുവരാതെകൂടാ ഈ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നുതന്നെ കൊണ്ടുവരുകയും ആദ്യം ഗവണ്മെന്റു അതിനെ എത്രത്തുവെങ്കിലും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുൻഡ്രയിലും മറ്റു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും നടപ്പിൽ വന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഇവിടെയും നടപ്പാക്കാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നു കണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മനസ്സമിതി മാറുകയും ബില്ലു പാസാക്കി അതു തുടക്കം വിളയാട്ടത്തിന്നു അയയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. സെലക്ട് കമ്മിറ്റി സ്റ്റേജിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഈ ബില്ലിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധയുള്ളവർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു ഓരോ വില്ലേജുകളിലും അതിന്നു സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഓരോ പഞ്ചായത്തിലെങ്കിലും ഓരോ കമ്മിറ്റി വേണമെന്നാണ്. അവസാനം അത് ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞ തരത്തിൽ ആയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എന്താണ്, ആർക്ക് രക്ഷ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുള്ളതാണ് ഈ വക സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഗൗരവമായി ധരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഒരു കൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു വയ്ക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു ഉപകാരവും ആർക്കും ഇല്ലാതായിത്തീരും. ഇതിന്റെ ആവശ്യം അത്ര അടിയന്തിരമാണ്. ഞങ്ങൾ ഈ ബിൽ നിയമസഭയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ അടുത്ത സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ബിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു പാസ്സാക്കിയതുപോലെ ഇവിടെയും പാസ്സാക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകൾക്കായി മാത്രം ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. അത് അവിടെ സക്ലസ് ആണെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ മറ്റു താലൂക്കുകളിലും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തും. സക്ലസ്

അല്ലെങ്കിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുകയില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നത് ശരിയല്ല. ഈ സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ച് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഗൗരവമായി ആലോചിക്കണം. ആറു താലൂക്കുകൾക്കും ബാധകമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ വച്ചിരുന്നാൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ആക്ഷേപത്തിനു അവകാശമില്ല. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിൽ ഒട്ടാകെ ബാധകമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. അതു എല്ലാ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ളവർക്കും ഒന്നുപോലെ രക്ഷയായിരിക്കുമോ ഇല്ലയോ എന്നുള്ള കാര്യം പോകട്ടെ. ഇപ്പോൾ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കമ്മിറ്റിക്കുതന്നെ ഈ ആറു താലൂക്കുകളുടേയും അധികാരം കൊടുക്കാമായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ ന്യായമായ യാതൊരു രക്ഷയും കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിനു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. പ്രസിഡൻറു അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കാണിക്കുവാനോ അഡ് മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ കാണിക്കുവാനോ ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിൽനിന്നു പുറപ്പെടുന്ന ചില കടലാസ്സുകളിൽ കാണിക്കുവാനോ വേണ്ടിയാണോ ഇന്നത്തെ നിലക്കു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് നാട്ടുകാർ ചെയ്യുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള വലുതായ രക്ഷകളേപ്പറ്റി ടിവാൻപ്രസിഡൻറു അവർകളുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ടിവാൻജി അവർകൾ പ്രസംഗിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭാഗങ്ങളെ നല്ലവണ്ണം വായിച്ചുനോക്കി അതു തലയിൽവെച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോഴും നടക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിനുള്ളിലാണ് കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സകല രക്ഷകളും കിടക്കുന്നത്! ഒന്നാമത്തെ രക്ഷയാണ് ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് കഴിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റിട്ട് റേഞ്ചുമെന്റു കമ്മിറ്റി. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടാണോ ഇവിടെ റിട്ട് റേഞ്ചുമെന്റു കമ്മിറ്റി വച്ചത്? മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യന്നി ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതനുസരിച്ചു ചില ഭാഗങ്ങൾ വെട്ടിക്കളഞ്ഞതിനു ശേഷമല്ലേ കമ്മിറ്റി അത് പാസ്സാക്കിയത്?

അഡ്വക്കേറ്റി ബോർഡുകളെ ഞാൻ അന്നും ഇന്നും എറുക്കുന്നു. ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസ് കമ്മിറ്റി, ഡെബ്റ്റ് കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ് ഇതൊക്കെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള രക്ഷകളാണ്. ഇതിലേക്കുവേണ്ടി ഞങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം ഖജനക്കൂട്ടുന്ന ആളുകൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ നയോപായങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകളുടെ സ്ഥാനത്തുവരുമ്പോൾ അവരിൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള നയോപായങ്ങൾ വരാതിരിക്കണമെന്നു എനിക്കുപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. വേറെ താലൂക്കുകളിലും ഈ ബോർഡ് വെക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നുവൈകുന്നേരം തന്നെ ബാക്കിയുള്ള മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കും ഇപ്പോൾവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുക. ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങളൊക്കെ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഡെബ്റ്റ് കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ് എന്നുള്ളതിനു വല്ല അർത്ഥവും കല്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അത് പഴയകാലത്തു പഞ്ചായത്തു പറഞ്ഞു കാര്യങ്ങൾ അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എസ്സ്. വിശ്വനാഥയ്യർ (*Chittur Tattamangalam Town*).— ഇതു സക്ലസ് ആണെന്നു കണ്ടതിനുശേഷം ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കുമായി വേക്കുണ്ട കാർയ്ക്കുത്തപ്പററി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ മതി.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (*Pazhayannur*).— എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ബാക്കി താലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കു രക്ഷയുണ്ടാകുന്ന പക്ഷം ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിലേക്കും വലിയ ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ്. ഈ ഡെറുകൾസിവിൽയേഷൻ ബില്ലിന്റെ ഇവിടെ വന്നതു മുതൽ അദ്ദേഹം ഇതിനു വിരോധിയാണ്. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യമൊട്ടുക്കുള്ള ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വച്ചാൽ മതിയെന്നു മനസ്സമിതിക്കാരനാണ് അദ്ദേഹം. നിവൃത്തിയുള്ള പക്ഷം വല്ലതും വച്ച് ചെയ്തു ഫലം കിട്ടണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കും ഓരോ കമ്മിറ്റിയെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു നടപ്പാക്കണം. ഒരു താലൂക്കിൽ നടപ്പാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള കണ്ടിഷൻകൊണ്ടു തുണമില്ലെന്നുവന്നാലും വേറെ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ആ കണ്ടിഷനിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചെന്നു കൊണ്ടു തുണമുണ്ടായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തെക്കെത്തലയും, വടക്കെത്തലയുമായി വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. അവിടെ നടക്കുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളൊന്നും ഇവിടെയില്ലെന്നും ഇവിടെ നടക്കുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളൊന്നും അവിടെയില്ലെന്നുംവന്നേക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ഓരോ താലൂക്കുകൾക്കും ഓരോ കമ്മിറ്റിയെ വെക്കുകയോ അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ബാക്കിയുള്ള മൂന്നു താലൂക്കുകളേയുംകൂടി ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുകയോ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ എനിക്കുപേക്ഷയുള്ളൂ.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).— So far as this question is concerned it is nothing but the cost that has influenced the Government in not setting up another Board. We are only at the experimental stage. We want to know how far it is a success before we spend any more money. There is absolutely no partiality shown. We had to choose one place and it happened to be here.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).— Why not two places?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).— It so happened that the place chosen was the southern taluks. It is not the unwillingness on the part of the Government to set up boards in other taluks also. We want to see how far it will be useful to the debtors.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ചെരൂത്രിയ്യൻ (*Cheruthuruthy*).— ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എസ്സ്. വിശ്വനാഥൻ (Chittur Tattamangalam Town).— കോയമ്പട്ടൂരിൽ ഒരു ബോർഡ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയത് അഞ്ചു മാസം കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ സക്സസ്ഫുൾ അല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഇപ്പോൾ ക്രിയേറ്റ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ബോർഡ് സക്സസ്ഫുൾ അല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടു. എഞ്ചിനീയർ ചെമ്പ്രൻ ഭാവമുള്ളതായിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇവിടെയും എക്സ് പിരിമെൻറലായി ഏറ്റെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ ഗുണഭോഷമെന്നാണെന്നറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുവേണം അക്കാമ്പിൽ കൂടുതലായി വല്ലതും ചെയ്യുവാൻ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ (Ezhuvas North). വടക്കൻതാലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഡെററ് കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ് നടപ്പാക്കണം അത്യാവശ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ഞാൻ പറയാതെത്തന്നെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകളുടെ പരിഭ്രമമനകമായ ആ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. അവിടത്തെ പ്രധാന പണവ്യാപാരിയായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ആ മെമ്പരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഇതിനു ഒരു പ്രോത്സാഹനമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇതു് തെക്കെ ഡിവിഷൻലെന്നപോലെത്തന്നെ വടക്കെ ഡിവിഷനിലും വിശിഷ്ടാ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി താലൂക്കിൽ, ആദ്യമായി നടപ്പാക്കണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെടുത്തച്ഛൻ (Wadakkancheri).— ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒരു വാക്കുമാത്രമെ എനിക്കു ഇവിടെ പറയുവാനുള്ളു. അതു് ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടല്ല. ഈ ഭാഗത്തുള്ള അതായതു കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തെക്കുഭാഗത്തുള്ള ഓരോ നിയോജക മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ജനപ്രതിനിധികളോടാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ സഹായിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം വോട്ടിനിടണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രസിദ്ധൻറു അവർകളോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

Motion was put and carried.

Motion No. 5.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).— "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To criticise the Government for their neglect of the villages".

Sir, the motion that stands in my name is a very important one, the importance of which our benign Government have not appreciated. The object of my motion is to criticise the Government for their neglect of the Villages. What is it that our Government has done? In the opening speech of the

Diwan President what is it that he has stated? What is it that the budget for the next year has provided for ameliorating the conditions of the masses of Cochin? That is the question that I raise through this motion. Do the Government of Cochin know what is the population of the villages? If they have no information in spite of the survey I may say that 85 per cent out of the 12 lakhs and more of the people of Cochin are in the villages, the conditions of which the Superintendent of Economic Survey has explained to us. He has told the Government of Cochin in so many words what the condition of the villages is. It is seen at page 12 of the Report. The villagers hardly 'live' because they are devoid of the necessities of life. They drag on a weary existence, by 'scratching the earth' for want of better pursuits. They have no other means of living. You will note that only 9 villages have been surveyed out of the 275. The labouring classes naturally form by far the most numerous class in rural areas. Mark you that. The standard of living is so inconceivably low that it must be seen to be believed. So says our Supt. of Economic Survey. I may inform the House that I have seen, seen actually, the miseries undergone by these people there with my own eyes. What have you done for them?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Pallippuram*).—What do you suggest?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—I have my clean cut remedies. I will simply draw the attention of the Government of Cochin to the announcement made by the Premier of the United Provinces. Do you know his name? It is Govind Vallabh Pant, one who has received lathi blows and not a man like you. What does he say in his speech introducing the Budget? Did you read about them in papers? Did you see what he has stated? I will give you the information. Here it is. He has enunciated his policy, a remarkable policy which I am sure will have the support of the Assembly representing the electorate—the masses and not the rich few as here—and with whose adverse vote they have to go away. Look at the wisdom of that great man who governs millions of Indians. I mean Premier Vallabh Pant of the United Provinces. I see a feeling of veneration, when I utter that name, even in your faces. I am not despondent. I am an optimist. Look at the reform of the Excise policy and the introduction of prohibition, and the amelioration of the condition of the labour classes that Premier Pant has enunciated. In the course of the statement the revered Pandit is seen to have referred to the measures adopted by the Congress Ministry and said: "I hope

that the House will help me in working out these plans". What are the plans? To improve the lot of the people of the villages by necessary enactments necessary for giving relief to the agriculturists, the labourers, the peasants, the hard hit peasants of the same type as we have here. Our case is perhaps worse. What action have you taken? Have we not been asking and asking incessantly these two or three years what action you have taken on the Economic survey report? I find in the Budget a sum of Rs. 1500 for demonstration in agriculturists lands and Rs. 500 for improvement of our cattle. Then that huge sum of Rs. 6,000 for rural uplift work. I am ashamed to see that the Government of Cochin have only provided so much. Did you have the grace to do that even in the original instance. The preliminary edition of the budget marked 'Confidential', yet given to the press even earlier than the date of sending to members, contains no such provision. It was again the lot of my poor self to request the Diwan to make a provision for rural uplift to justify his existence. It is gratifying to note that the Diwan was pleased to respond to this request of mine and he has provided this munificent sum of 6000 rupees for rural uplift amongst the 85 per cent of the rural population of Cochin. It may be it is better than nothing. I request you to take up a planned line of action for enabling the villager to 'live' and not to 'exist'. I make an appeal to this House to think of the villages and I will close with these observations that the Diwan of Cochin be not misled by the sights he sees when he is taken in procession to parties pre-arranged. That is not the true condition of the villager. The neat dress that he wears on the occasion is not his ordinary dress. The plantain bunches & tender cocoanut seen on great occasions also do not represent the true picture of the villages. By these you cannot judge of the miserable condition of the villagers. The condition is what is pointed out by your own officer Mr. T. K. Sankara Menon. He has written that with a feeling greater than mine. Mr. Sankara Menon is a man with a heart. That is the trouble. He has seen it and he has given you the true picture. Will you act upon it? I hope you will grow wise and come to the rescue of the villages before it is too late.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).—Sir, while I have nothing to say against the motion that the village should not be neglected it is difficult to suggest anything to effect a sudden change. I believe the object of this motion is only to impress upon the Government that more intensive attention should be paid to the rural population.

* **Mr. M. Sivarama Menon** (*Ernakulam South*).—While everybody will certainly sympathise and be at one with the mover of the cut motion without a word of explanation, that position may be misunderstood. The wording is to criticise the Government for their neglect of the villages. It cannot but be said that it is tantamount to saying that the Cochin Government have not done anything for the villages. It is more or less a condemnatory motion to make the Government realise that it is their duty to do something for the villages. If only we compare the villages beyond our borders the difference can certainly be noted. Much was made of certain villages in Mysore. I can say that the villages in Mysore for whom they have done much cannot stand comparison with the villages in Cochin. The Cochin Government have been doing much for the welfare of the villagers. If it is a question of doing much more we are at one with the mover of the motion. The activities of the Panchayat and Public Health Departments have done much to the villages and if anything more is to be done I do not think there will be any dissentient voice for that. We are at one with the mover that some more attention should be paid by the Government by the establishment of rural reconstruction boards or any other means which will be a source of relief to the rural population.

Deputy President.—Do you want to change the object of your motion?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—It may be like this "*More attention should be paid for the welfare of the villagers*".

* **Mr. George Parakkal** (*Narakkal*).—I cannot support either the Hon'ble Member for Pallippuram or the Hon'ble Member for Ernakulam South. In my opinion there has been real neglect of provisions for amenities of village life. With three items of expenditure very useful to the villagers, namely, Public Works, Panchayats and Public Health the provisions have been reduced to a very great extent though the needs are rising. I do not find fault with the Government for spending money on capital towns and the assiduity with which they undertake these things. But no provision has been made to supervise the works in villages. For example in the case of the Appangat canal, the work could not be carried on because of the want of land acquisition and protection. It is time that

* Speeches not corrected by the Hon'ble Members.

the Government taxing the villages is withdrawn. I speak with regard to the introduction of the prawn tax. The Diwan Peishkar stated that only if the tax is avoided I will be contented. It is true. I shall be contented only if the tax is done away with. It is not time for the Government to contemplate about these taxes? When that industry gives some return, then it will be time to impose a tax. Now the people are starving.

Mr. K. S. Manickam (Irinjalakuda).—Sir, while congratulating the Government on the appointment of a franchise committee to increase the political activities of the country I feel constrained to remark that unless they launch upon with such schemes, schemes for the economic regeneration of the villages, such political schemes will result in a noble aim with squallid results. Without properly attending to the economic uplift of the villager and the villages which form the backbone of the country any system of Government based upon political liberties and things of that sort will be a mere idle thing. Unless economic regeneration is effected immediately the prevalence of free thought will be a pretence and democracy will be an imposture. Unless economic regeneration is pursued upon the political activities that the Government may run it will result in no benefit to the poor villager. A record of a mere vote will be no consolation for a hungry stomach.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. കത്തുമൊയ്ക്കിൻ (Kattur).— ഈ പ്രമേയപ്രയോക്താവിന്റെ ഗംഭീരമായ പ്രസംഗത്തിനുശേഷം ഒരു പ്രസംഗത്തിനു പ്രസക്തിയില്ലെന്നു ഞാനും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം വില്ലേജുകളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അനുവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്ന നയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും വില്ലേജുകളുടെ ഉദ്ധാരണകാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് തീരെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചും പറഞ്ഞ സംഗതിക്കും ഒരു ഉദാഹരണം പറഞ്ഞ് ഇതിനെ അനുക്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഉപസംഹരിച്ചുകൊള്ളാം. പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി ഇപ്പോൾ ഫെൽത്തു സെന്റേഴ്സ് സ്ഥാപിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഒരു സംപ്രദായമാണുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ മിക്കവാറും അതു സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നത് പട്ടണങ്ങളിലാണ്. പട്ടണങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു താരതമ്യേന കൂടുതൽ ആരോഗ്യവും, രോഗംവന്നാൽ ചികിത്സിക്കുവാൻ കൂടുതൽ സൗകര്യവും ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾ വില്ലേജുകളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ തീരെ അശ്രദ്ധാപരമായ ഒരു നയമാണു കൈക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. കൂടാതെ മറ്റു പല ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളും ഇതിനു പറയുവാനുണ്ടെങ്കിലും സന്ദർഭത്തിന്റെ ഗൗരവത്തേയും, വിഷയത്തിന്റെ ഗൗരവത്തേയും ആലോചിച്ച് കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും സംസാരിക്കാതെ ഞാൻ ഉപസംഹരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

* **Mr. P. Govinda Menon** (*Adur*).—Sir, I can assure the Hon'ble Member for Ernakulam South that this motion is not intended as a motion for condemning the Government. The Departments of Government which have something to do with village life are the departments of Education, Public Health and Panchayats and Agriculture. By saving something from these three Departments we maintain that there has been a neglect of the villages. In other words this motion seeks to impress upon the Government that some provision should be made for the nationbuilding departments. I have only to throw out one suggestion. I have sent a cut motion also to that effect. With regard to the location of veterinary hospitals I think that the interests and the needs of the villagers are not properly looked after. Many of the hospitals are stationed in towns which do not so much require the assistance of veterinary hospitals as agricultural centre. As example I will take the case of Mukundapuram. The Hospital is now stationed at Irinjalakuda. The statistics of the cases which come to the hospital will show that more cases have come there from Chalakkudi, Adoor and other places. I have the statistics. There are very many cattle there and the farmers require the help and assistance of the veterinary hospitals. If a person falls sick it is easy to carry him in a bus, car or a cot but it is absolutely impossible to carry a sick cattle. It is therefore absolutely necessary that Chalakkudi and Pariyaram and Adoor should have a veterinary hospital somewhere near the places. It is this aspect of the matter that I want to impress upon the Government. My Hon'ble friend the mover referred to the economic survey report. It is a very tragic document. You have deputed an officer to cut open a wound and did not do anything for it. While the report shows the wound nothing is done to heal it. I understand that the Government launched upon this survey to combat unemployment. I now think it is the unemployment of certain officers of theirs which they wanted to remove by this survey.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—So far as this matter is concerned, Government will be pleased to consider the amended motion that is now before the House—that the Government should devote more attention to the betterment of the villages. To say that the Government have been systematically neglecting is not correct. Government will try to do its level best. The only thing that stands in the way is funds. As far as funds permit we will try to do our best. Whatever suggestions are put forward will be considered by the

Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

Government. To say that there should be prohibition and the Excise tax should be done away with is a proposition which we cannot accept in toto. If you can give us some suggestions they will be considered and carried out, if practicable.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—In deference to the wishes of the Hon'ble leader of the other party, I change the wording. This is an occasion on which silence is more suited. I adopt that. I press the motion to a division.

Motion was put and carried.

Motion No. 6.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—“To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To request the Government to amend the rules framed under the Debt Conciliation Act so as to make the Land Mortgage Bank and the Debt Conciliation Board more helpful to the agriculturists and in particular to achieve the following result: If a debtor prays that his debt may be scaled down to such an extent so that his asset may become sufficient security to enable the Land Mortgage Bank to advance that amount to him, the Board may refer the matter to the President of the Land Mortgage Bank for enquiry and report. The officers of the Land Mortgage Bank shall submit their report without any delay and the report shall also state the maximum amount the bank may advance on the security of the debtor's assets. The Board shall take into consideration the report of the Land Mortgage Bank and other relevant circumstances, before an agreement under section 14 is arrived at”.

Sir, I think this matter has been before the public for a sufficiently long time and that much explanation is not required. The object of the Land Mortgage Bank is to help the agricultural debtors and the Debt Conciliation Board also is for the same. By co-ordinating the activities of these two institutions the agricultural debtors can get more relief. Usually, when a debtor applies to the Board for settlement the Board can only divide the properties among the creditors since it has no money. From my personal experience I know all our creditors want cash and if cash is given, they will be willing to forego a part of their debt. Suppose a hard working debtor wants to conciliate his debts and his debts amount to Rs. 1200 and his assets to Rs. 1000/- Such a debtor cannot expect any assistance from the Land Mortgage Bank. He should apply to the Debt Conciliation Board for relief. Then what I suggest is that the Debt Conciliation Board should ask the Land Mortgage Bank, to inquire and report on the maximum amount they can advance on the

security of the debtor. Suppose the Bank is willing to advance only Rs. 700 then his debts should be scaled down to Rs. 700 and this amount the Land Mortgage Bank should advance and thus he is enabled to pay off his creditors without losing any of his properties. The Board should persuade the creditors to arrive at a settlement by which his debts are scaled down to Rs. 700. In Bhavanagar also this was the principle applied. The creditors were willing to forego a portion of the debt because it was paid in cash. If this suggestion is accepted, I am sure that the Board will be able to bring about settlement in many more cases than otherwise. I request the House to consider this proposal.

Deputy President.—There is no provision for scaling down the debts in the Act and as such how can this be done?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—If a certain percentage of the creditors come to an agreement then it can be done. That is the scope of the Act itself. The Land Mortgage Bank would be prepared to advance a certain amount and the creditors must accept it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—It is not conciliation, it is practically compulsion. The Hon'ble Member was referring to the things in Bhavanagar. There might have been a large number of Sowkars there who were charging a very high rate of interest. Here we have no such Sowkars.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Pallippuram).—I can give you several instances where very high rates of interests are charged.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—I myself may be a money lender, because I might have invested my surplus earnings. Further the limit to which the Land Mortgage Bank will advance loans is only Rs. 5,000. There may be several cases where that amount will be found insufficient to pay off the creditors.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—But, Sir, that rule may be changed.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—The Act has to be changed then.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen (Kattur).—In case there is no conciliation the Board has to issue a certificate that the creditor was not willing to accept it. To that effect a certificate may be issued, but not for the purpose of scaling down debts.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas South*).—Is it not incumbent on the Board to scale down debts?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—It is not obligatory on the part of the Board that they should scale down debts.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas South*).—But the word conciliation means scaling down debts.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—There is no compulsion, that is all.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Adur*).—Sir, I wish to say a few words on this motion.

Deputy President.—Are not these particulars sufficient? The Land Mortgage Bank cannot give more than Rs. 5000 to an individual and there is no provision for scaling down debts.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas South*).—Why not we apply this principle in the case of debts below Rs. 5,000?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (*Pazhayannur*).—ഇതിൽ കുറച്ച് ഒരു വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഇതിന്റെ അവതാരകൻ ഇതു അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ—സ്കെയിൽഡൗൺ ചെയ്യുന്ന അതർമത്തിലാണെങ്കിൽ—

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മുത്തേടൻ (*Chalakkudi*).—അതല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (*Pazhayannur*).—അതല്ലെന്താണെങ്കിൽ സ്കെയിൽഡൗൺ ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളണമെന്ന നിർബന്ധം വരുന്നില്ല. പ്രാക്ടിക്കലായിട്ട് നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാനുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി പറയാം. പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക കടമുള്ള

Deputy President.—What can the Board do?

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas South*).—In a case where the Board finds that the amount with which the creditors will be satisfied would come within the amount which can be advanced by the Land Mortgage Bank, they can at once ask the debtor to apply to the Land Mortgage Bank.

Deputy President.—The amount may be over Rs. 5,000 and there will be so many other difficulties.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas South*).—Cannot a rule be made to the effect that the bank may be allowed to advance a greater amount?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—There are other difficulties also. The debtor should be a share-holder of

the Land Mortgage Bank. So far as I know the Land Mortgage Bank is not willing to conduct infructuous enquiries.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (Ezhuvas South).—I think most of the enquiries will be infructuous enquiries in the Land Mortgage Bank.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (Pazhayannur).— ബാങ്കിലേക്കു റഫർ ചെയ്യുകൊടുത്താൽ ഇന്നു സംഖ്യ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ബാങ്ക് തയ്യാറാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതികൂടി ആർബിറ്ററേഷൻ ബോർഡിൽ ഉണ്ടു്. പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക കടമുള്ള ഒരാൾ അതു് ആർബിറ്ററേഷൻ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ബോർഡിലേക്കു ആപ്ലിക്കേഷൻ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നാലായിരം രൂപയുടെ വസ്തുവിന്നേൽ ബാങ്കിലേക്കു റഫർ ചെയ്തു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുക. നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികവരെ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാണെന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ വസ്തു ബോർഡിലേക്കു കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികവരെ കടക്കാർ സമ്മതിച്ചുവെന്നും വിചാരിക്കുക, നാട്ടമ്പുറങ്ങളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ രണ്ടായിരം ഉറപ്പിക കടമുള്ള ഒരാളോടു പലിശ വിട്ടതരാം, മുതലും കുറെ വിട്ടതരാം, ഒരാക്കം പണം തരുവാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ എന്നു ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഇല്ല. ഇതു് അവിടെ നിത്യത അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ഘട്ടത്തിൽ നാലായിരം രൂപാ മുതലുള്ള ഒരുത്തനു പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക കടമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് ഭംഗിയായി അവസാനിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അത്ഥമാണു്. മൂവർ ഇതിനു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ധരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അല്ലാതെ സ്കെയിൽ ഡൗൺ ചെയ്യാനുള്ള ഒരു നിർബന്ധം വരുത്തുന്ന റൂൾ വേണമെന്നു ഇതിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യണ്ണി (Trichur South).— ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ചില സംശയങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു് ചോദിച്ചു മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതിനുശേഷം എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് പറയാം. ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തിൽ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതി അതായതു്: “If a debtor prays that his debt may be scaled down to such an extent so that his asset may become sufficient security to enable the Land Mortgage Bank to advance that amount, the Board may refer the matter to the President of the Land Mortgage Bank for enquiry and report” എന്നാണു്.

ഒന്നാമതായിട്ടു് ഡെബ്റ്ററുകൾസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡിലേക്കു ഓരോ അപേക്ഷകൾ വരുന്നതു് കടക്കാർ അവരുടെ കടങ്ങൾ മുഴുവൻ തീർക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്ന ഒരു ഘട്ടത്തിലാണു്. ഒരു കടക്കാരനു പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക വിലയുള്ള ഒരു വസ്തുവുണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുക. അതനുസരിച്ചു അയാൾ ലാൻഡ്മോർട്ട്ഗേജ് ബാങ്കിലേക്കു് ഒരുപേക്ഷ അയച്ചു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുക. അപ്പോൾ അവർ അവിടത്തെ വ്യവ

സ്ഥയനുസരിച്ചു നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികവരെ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു മറുപടിയുച്ചതായും വിചാരിക്കുക. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇതിൽ പറയുന്ന Suggestion അനുസരിച്ചു പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പികയിലും കൂടുതലുള്ള കടം നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികയാക്കി വെട്ടിക്കുറയ്ക്കണം എന്നാണ് വരുക. അങ്ങിനെ വരുന്നതായാൽ പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക വിലപിടിച്ചു വസ്തു നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികയിൽ കൂടുതലായ സംഖ്യക്കു മറ്റൊരു കടക്കാരൻ എടുക്കുവാൻ ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതിൽ അർത്ഥമില്ല. പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക വിലയുള്ള വസ്തു ആ സംഖ്യക്കു വാങ്ങുവാൻ ആളില്ലെന്നു വന്നേക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു വസ്തുവിനു നാലായിരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ അയ്യായിരമോ, ആറായിരമോ, ഏഴായിരമോ ഉറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കുവാൻ യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല. Land Mortgage Bank നാലായിരം ഉറപ്പികയെ കടംകൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളു എന്നുള്ളതു ശരിയായിരിക്കും. പതിനായിരം ഉറപ്പിക വിലയുള്ള ഒരു വസ്തുവിനു അയ്യായിരമോ, ആറായിരമോ, ഏഴായിരമോ ഉറപ്പിക കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് വസ്തു വാങ്ങുന്ന creditors ന്ന് എന്താണു നഷ്ടമുള്ളതു്. കടക്കാരനെ ചുമതലകൂടാതെ അയാളുടെ കടത്തിൽനിന്നും വിടുവിക്കാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗം ഈ ഡെബ്റ്റ് റദ്ദാക്കുവാൻ ബോർഡുകൊണ്ടുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ൧൦൦൦-൦, ൮൦൦൦-൦ ഉറപ്പിക വിലയുള്ള വസ്തുക്കൾ ൪൦൦൦ രൂപയ്ക്കു ലാൻറുമാർട്ടുഗേജു ബാങ്കിലേയ്ക്കു ഈടായി കൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കടക്കാർക്കു അതായതു് creditors ന്ന് മൂവായിരം ഉറപ്പികയോളം നഷ്ടമാകും എന്നു തീർച്ചയാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. നാരായണമേനോൻ (Vyttila).— അവർ സമ്മതിച്ചാൽ മതി.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യപ്പൻ (Trichur South).— ഇതു സാധാരണ പൊതുവായി പറയാറുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതി ആണെന്നെനിക്കറിയാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ (Ezhuvas South).— ലാൻറുമാർട്ടുഗേജു ബാങ്കിൽനിന്നു ഈടിന്മേൽ പണം കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഈ വസ്തുക്കൾക്കു വേറെ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും പണം കിട്ടുകയില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യപ്പൻ (Trichur South).— ൨൦ കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു അരപണം പലിശയ്ക്കു മറ്റൊരാൾ കൊടുത്തുവെന്നു വരുന്നതല്ല. സ്കെയിൽ ഡെൻറർ ചെയ്യുകയെന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ മാത്രമേ എനിക്കു സംശയമുള്ളൂ.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. വി. മുത്തേടൻ (Chalakkudi).— അതിൽ അവരുടെ സമ്മതമെന്താണെന്നു കണ്ടിട്ടു ചെയ്യാൽമതി.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യപ്പൻ (Trichur South).— ഒരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഒരു മറുപടി തരുന്നതിനു ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിലേയ്ക്കു ബോർഡുകാരുടെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മനഃസ്ഥിതി ഒന്നു മറററണ്ടതായിട്ടാ

ണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ ലാൻറമോർട്ട്ഗേജ് ബാങ്കിൽനിന്ന് ൧൦൦൦൦ രൂപാ വിലയുള്ള ഒരു വസ്തുവിന് ൧൦൦൦ മൊ, ൩൦൦൦ മൊ ഉറപ്പി കയെ കൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളവെന്ന് വിവരം ബോർഡുകാരെ അറിയിച്ചാൽ അവരുടെ മനുഷ്വതി debtor ന് അനുകൂലമായി മാറുവാനാണെങ്കിലും. അല്ലാതെ വേറെ എന്തുദേശമാണിതിലുള്ളതെന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ല. തീർച്ചയായിട്ടും ബാങ്കിൽനിന്ന് ഇടടിന്മേൽ കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയും വസ്തു തീർവിററാൽ കിട്ടുന്ന സംഖ്യയും തമ്മിലുള്ള വ്യത്യാസം creditors ന് നഷ്ടംവരാതെ തരമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. വി. ചെറിയാൻ (*Mattancheri South*).— അതിനെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാനല്ലേ ഡെബ്റ്റർ കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യണ്ണി (*Trichur South*).— ഡെബ്റ്റർ കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡ് അതിനെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണു വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. debtor ന്റെ മുതൽകൊണ്ടു creditors ന്റെ മുതലിനെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാനും debtor നെ കടമുടമലയിൽനിന്നു വിടുത്തുവാനും ആണ് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—I perfectly agree with the Hon'ble Member for Pazhayannur that the Debt Conciliation Board has no power to compel a creditor to agree to scaling down debts or to reducing it to such an extent as would enable the debtor to raise the required amount from the Land Mortgage Bank. Whatever is done here is done with the consent of creditors. Suppose the creditors are willing to forego a portion of their debts, if cash is advanced by the Land Mortgage Bank. Then where is the difficulty?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Under what section will this petition be given by the debtor?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—He will put in a petition under section 4. There will be hearing of this petition. Then the creditors will be present and there will be offers and counter offers by the debtors and the creditors. At the time of the hearing of the petition, the debtor might make this request to advance the amount from the Land Mortgage Bank. There is no idea of compulsion here.

Deputy President.—I may point out that as the motion now stands it is impossible to pass it. There is no power for the Board to scale down debts unless all the creditors agree to it. If the object of the cut is not changed there will be difficulty in the working of this provision.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—Suppose 50 per cent of the creditors agree, then it would be sufficient. But it may

be modified in any way provided it would become a help to the agricultural debtors and facilitate the working of the Conciliation Boards. But I do not agree to the unanimous consent of all the creditors. If 50 per cent of the creditors agree to this prayer of the debtor, then it may be done.

Motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi).—A poll, Sir.

Ayes

Mr. K. S. Panickar.
 „ T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
 „ P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
 „ K. M. Kunhi Moideen.
 „ K. M. Ibrahim.
 „ K. Ayyappan.
 „ T. K. Nayar.
 „ K. T. Mathew.
 „ M. Sivarama Menon.
 „ P. C. Varkey.
 Dr. A. R. Menon.
 Mr. P. Sankunni Menon.
 „ George Parakal.
 „ V. K. Krishnankutty
 „ A. V. Moothan.
 „ K. S. Manickam.
 „ M. V. Cheriyan.
 „ P. J. Alexander.
 „ K. Kunhirama Menon.
 „ M. A. Sankunni

Noes

Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar.
 „ P. Govinda Menon
 „ C. R. Iyanni.
 „ E. Ikkanda Warriar
 „ K. P. Kannan Nayar.
 „ K. Achyuta Menon.
 „ P. J. George.
 „ Thomas Manjuran.
 „ I. N. Menon.
 „ V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.
 „ P. V. Subramania Ayyar.
 „ K. Narayana Menon.
 „ K. Krishna Warriar.
 „ T. Narayana Menon.
 „ A. L. Devassy.
 Dr. E. S. R. Menon.
 Mr. A. Sankara Menon, President.
 „ Rama Varmha Tampuran.

Motion was therefore carried.

Motion No. 7.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Wadakkancheri).—“To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 from Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To urge on the Government the necessity for introducing a cut on the salaries of officers drawing Rs. 100 and above per mensem as follows: Rs. 100—250, 5 per cent; Rs. 250—400, 10 per cent; Rs. 400—600, 15 per cent; and Rs. 600 and above, 20 per cent”:

Sir, I am not going to make any speech because the subject has been brought before this House on various occasions and

there is no time either. I am thankful to the Diwan of Cochin who helped us in this matter. I draw the attention of the Government and this Hon'ble House to page 7 of the Diwan's speech where a clear case for reduction has been made out. I think good sense will prevail with the Government to accept this proposition. The position today is that Government are not able to continue the payment of a scholarship of Rs. 20 for an engineering student selected and sent by them during the 4th year course. We are driven to such straits. Therefore cut the salaries as above.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—Sir, by this motion what is aimed at I suppose is a permanent cut in the salaries and not a temporary cut.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Reduce your pay and cut down to the level of Cochin.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—So far as a permanent cut in the salaries of the several heads of departments mentioned here is concerned I have nothing more to add to what the Diwan President himself has said in this House at the time when he delivered his opening speech. All the facts are mentioned there. The whole position has been explained.

Motion was put and carried.

Motion No. 8.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,740 for Huzur Establishment by Re. 1. To request His Highness the Maharaja to appoint a Council of Ministers with, at present, the Diwan as Prime Minister for carrying on the administration of Cochin." The Council of Ministers shall be responsible to the Legislature; provided that the field of responsibility shall not extend to the following subjects: (1) Ruling Family (2) Relations with the Paramount Power; (3) Devaswoms; (4) grave emergency affecting the peace and tranquility of Cochin".

Sir, I may be allowed to make a slight change in the wording of the cut motion. The words 'with, at present the Diwan as Prime Minister' may be deleted. I have done this on the request of my Hon'ble friends on this side of the House. As it is already 5 p. m., I am very sorry that I am not able to make a speech explaining the proposition.

Mr. V. K. Kutty (Muslims).—I second it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government).—So far as this motion also is concerned I can only draw the attention of the House to the remarks made by the Diwan President last time. In my speech yesterday, I have also referred to that speech. The matter is still being considered and every effort will be made, as far as possible, within the limitation of the constitution, to satisfy your aspirations. That is all what I can say.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (Pazhayannur).—എം. മിഥുനത്തിൽ ഈ നിയമസഭ സ്ഥാപിച്ചതു മുതൽ ഓരോ കൊല്ലത്തിലും കാബ്നറ്റിററു ഷണൽ റീഫോംസ്, റസ്പാൻസിബിൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഒരു മിനിസ്റ്ററെ വക്കുക എന്നുള്ള വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഇങ്ങിനെ ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിൽ ആവശ്യപ്പെടാമോ അതെല്ലാം ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്തെല്ലാമോ വികൃതിവേഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു നിങ്ങളുടെ ട്രഷറിയിൽ കാണുന്ന സകല പ്രവൃത്തികളും ഞങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തു. ആദ്യം ഞങ്ങൾ ഒരു കട്ടമോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന് ജനറൽ അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റു മുഴുവൻ ഒന്നായിട്ടു തള്ളി. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഓരോ ബഡ്ജറ്റിന്റെ മുക്കാലേ അരക്കാൽ ഭാഗവും ഞങ്ങൾ ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി സ്ഥലം പിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മമ്മൂന്ന കൊല്ലത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ ദിവാൻജിമാർ മാറിവരുമ്പോൾ അടുത്ത ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻ ഡ്രയിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന സംഗതികളുമായുള്ള പരിചയം അവരെപ്പോലെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ഏതായാലും ഒരു കൊല്ലം ക്ഷമിച്ചിരിക്കുക, അവർ പറയുന്നതൊക്കെ കേട്ടുനോക്കുക, എന്തെങ്കിലും ഗുണം അവർ ചെയ്യുതരും, അവർ വരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അത്ര വലിയ ഒരു കിഴിയുണ്ടാകണമെന്നു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്, അത്ര നമുക്കു തരം തരം എന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് ഞങ്ങൾ കാത്തിരുന്നു. പിന്നെയും തരുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് നാലാമത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റായ ഈ ൧൨-ാമത്തെ കൊല്ലംവരെ ഞങ്ങൾ ഉറങ്ങിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. റസ്പാൻസിബിൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണമെന്നു ഒരു മന്ത്രിയോട് നിയമസഭയിൽവെച്ച് വാദിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജിക്ക് അത് ഇവിടെ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്താൻ യാതൊരു വിഷമവുമില്ല. അതു നടപ്പാക്കിയതുകൊണ്ട് ഭരണത്തിനു യാതൊരു വിഘാതവും ഇല്ല, കൊച്ചി വേമ്പനാട്ടു കായലിലേക്ക് ഒഴുകിപ്പോകുകയില്ല, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ യാതൊരു ഇളക്കവും തട്ടുകയില്ല, ദിവാൻജിയവർകളുടെ മുമ്പായിരും ഉറപ്പികയും പോകുകയില്ല. കൊച്ചിയിൽ ആദ്യം ഒരു മിനിസ്റ്ററെ വച്ചുകിട്ടുവാൻ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ഞങ്ങൾ ഇതുവരെ ആശ്രയിച്ച് ഇരുന്ന. സുപ്രസിദ്ധനായ ദിവാൻ സർ, ഷൺമുഖം ചെയ്തിയവർകൾ ഈ സംഗതിക്ക് എന്തു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞുവെന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ ഗൗരവമായി ആലോചിക്കണം. “നിങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുന്നത് ഒരു തരത്തിലും കൂടുതലല്ല, അടുത്ത ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്രയിൽ നിങ്ങളെപ്പോലെയുള്ളവർ മന്ത്രിമാരാകുമ്പോൾ കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തുള്ള നിങ്ങൾ അതിന് അ

പ്രാപ്തരാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ ഞാൻ തയ്യാറില്ല, നിങ്ങൾ പ്രാപ്തരാൺ. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലേക്ക് വേണ്ട അവസരത്തിൽ വേണ്ട ഉപദേശങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്ത് വേണ്ടതു ഞാൻ ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതോടുകൂടി അതുകേട്ട് മരമണ്ടനാരായ ഞങ്ങൾ അന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചു കീഴ്പ്പെട്ടു. അങ്ങിനെ ഏഴാം മാളികയുടെ മുകളിൽ കയറിയിരുന്നിരുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വീണ്ടും ആശ്രയിക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരു ഘട്ടം ഇപ്പോൾ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുതന്നെ ഒരു മിനക്കേടുവന്നാൽ അതിൽ അതൃപ്തപ്പെടുവാനുണ്ടോ? ഭന്തപേജടങ്ങിയ ഈ പ്രസംഗപുസ്തകത്തിൽ ൧൧൧൩-ൽ ഈ കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്ത് റസ്സാൺസിബിൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തരുകയില്ലെന്ന ഒരു വാക്കു ചേർക്കുവാനുള്ള മനഃസ്ഥിതി ഈ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടായോ? (ഫീയർ, ഫീയർ.) ഏതുതരത്തിലുള്ള റസ്സാൺസിബിൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറാണു കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിലേക്കു വേണ്ടതെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിയാം. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ റസ്സാൺസിബിൾ ആണ്. നിയമസഭയിലെ അനുജ്യാഗസ്ഥസാമാജികന്മാരുടെ നിലക്ക് എന്തു സഹായം വേണമെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യുവാൻ തയ്യാറുള്ള കൊച്ചി രാജ്യക്കാരോട് നിങ്ങൾ ലേശമെങ്കിലും ഭയവുകാണിച്ച്, നിങ്ങളുടെ അധികാരത്തിൽ ലേശമെങ്കിലും കുറവുകൂടാതെ നിസ്സാരമായ ഈ ഒരു അവകാശം, പടിപ്പരയുടെ വാതിൽ തുറക്കുവാൻപോലുമുള്ള അവകാശം നൽകി ഈ മരമണ്ടനാരായ തോൽപ്പിക്കുവാനായി സുപ്രസിദ്ധനായ സർ ഷൺമുഖചെട്ടിയവർകൾ ഇതുവരെ എന്തു പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചു? എനിക്ക് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഈ ഭാഗമെടുത്തു വായിക്കുന്നതിനു ലഘു തോന്നുന്നുണ്ട്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ഹ്രാഞ്ചൈസ് കമ്മററി തന്നു, റിഭ്യൂമെൻറു കമ്മററി തന്നു, ഡെബ്റ്റു കൺസിലിയേഷൻ ബോർഡു തന്നു, ലാൻറുമാർട്ടഗേജു ബാങ്ക് തന്നു, സ്റ്റാഫു സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡു തന്നു, അഡ്വൈസറി ബോർഡുകൾ തന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ (Wadakkancheri).— പുസ്തകം അച്ചടിപ്പിച്ചുവെന്നുകൂടിയുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ (Pazhayannur).—ഇതെല്ലാം കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു വസ്തുതകൾ എല്ലാം മറന്ന്, മതിമറന്ന്, അന്ധനായി ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസ് വണ്ടിയിൽ കയറി മടങ്ങിപ്പോകുമെന്നാണോ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്? കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോട് ഒന്നുകൂടി ഈ അവസാനഘട്ടത്തിൽ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഞങ്ങൾ ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് അടങ്ങിയിരുന്ന ആളുകളാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട, (ഫീയർ, ഫീയർ) ഇതിനുമുമ്പു നിങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള അടുത്ത ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിൽ കാണുന്ന സംഗതികൾ മുഴുവൻ എന്റെ നാട്ടുകാരും സ്നേഹിതന്മാരും സഹോദരന്മാരായ നിങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു വരുത്തിവെത്തിക്കുകയില്ലേ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. നിങ്ങളോടു ഞങ്ങൾ ഒന്നുകൂടി പറയുന്നു, യാതൊരു വഴക്കും ലഘുയുക്തമാതെ, ഞങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു ജയിൽവാസം കഴിപ്പിക്കാതെ, (ഫീയർ, ഫീയർ.) നിങ്ങളുടെ ലാത്തി ചാർജ്ജു ഞങ്ങളുടെമേൽ കൊള്ളി

ക്കാതെ, ഇരുഭാഗത്തുകാക്കും സൗഭാഗ്യമായി കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂട്ടുവാനുള്ള ഒരു വഴി നിങ്ങളാലോചിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള നല്ല അവസരം ഇതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ.) അന്നത്തെപ്പോലെ തീർച്ചയായും ഈ ഭാഗത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഡസൻ മെമ്പർമാരും പിന്നോക്കംപോകുന്ന ആളുകളാണെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ? (കേൾക്കവിൻ, കേൾക്കവിൻ.) ഇവക സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ഭാരതപ്പുഴ കടന്ന് ഇങ്ങോട്ടുവന്ന് മെലിഞ്ഞു കറുത്ത ഒരു ചെക്കൻ ഇവിടെനിന്നു പ്രസംഗിക്കുകയാണെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കരുത്. എന്റെ സഹോദരന്മാരേ! ഞങ്ങളെപ്പോലെതന്നെ ഇവിടെ ഇരുന്നിരുന്ന എന്റെ സഹോദരന്മാരേ! സ്നേഹിതന്മാരേ! നിങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെ വിഡ്ഢിത്തവേഷം കെട്ടിക്കരുതേ. ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ അധികാരം പരിച്ചുമേടിപ്പിച്ചുവെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഹോദരന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിലിരിക്കുന്ന അധികാരങ്ങളെ പരിച്ചുമേടിക്കണമോ? നിങ്ങൾക്കുതന്നെ ആ അധികാരങ്ങൾ കറേജ്റ കറേജ്റയായി ഞങ്ങൾക്കുതന്നെകൂടെ? അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ, ൧൧൧൨-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ, ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ പൊളിച്ചെഴുത്തു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളെ ആശ്രയിക്കുന്നു, വീണ്ടു നമസ്കരിക്കുന്നു, കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ മാന്യതയെ രക്ഷിക്കുവാനായിട്ട് ഈ ചെറുപ്പക്കാരനായ ഞാൻ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പാദത്തിൽവീണു നമസ്കരിക്കുന്നു, അവസാനമായി ഒന്നുകൂടി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു, ഞങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ട് വേണ്ടാത്ത വേഷം കെട്ടിക്കരുതേ എന്ന്. നിങ്ങൾ സൗഹാർദ്ദമായി ഒന്നുകൂടി ആലോചിച്ച് ഇത് ഞങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു നടത്തിക്കണം എന്ന് ഒന്നുകൂടി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇതൊന്നും കിഴിഞ്ഞു കിഴിഞ്ഞു ആശ്രയിക്കുന്ന ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ആശ്രയിക്കുന്നവർ പുറത്തിറങ്ങിയാൽ കാണുന്നത് ഇതൊന്നുമല്ല എന്ന് നിങ്ങൾ ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ അതിനുള്ള ദയവു നിങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഈ കാൺഗ്രസ് പാർട്ടി നേതാവായ ടി. കെ. നായർ കെഞ്ചി ആശ്രയിച്ചതിൽപിന്നെ നിങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടുന്ററതുവന്ന്, ഞങ്ങളുടെ വീട്ടിൽവന്ന് ഞങ്ങളെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചു സമാധാനിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചുപോകണ്ടോ. ഈ കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിലെ അധികാരം നിങ്ങളുടെ കയ്യിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങൾ പരിച്ചുമേടിപ്പിച്ചുവെന്നുള്ള അപമാനം—അഭിമാനമായിട്ടല്ല അപമാനമായിട്ടുതന്നെ ഞാൻ കണക്കാക്കുന്നു—വരുത്തുവാൻ രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏർപ്പെടാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. നിങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതു മുഴുവൻ അനുഭവിക്കുവാൻ ഞങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാണ്. അവസാനമായി ഞങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. കാലേകൂട്ടിത്തന്നെ ചെയ്യുതരുവാൻ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് നല്ലൊരു അവസരമാണ്, ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നിങ്ങൾ ഒന്നുകൂടി ശ്രദ്ധവക്കണം എന്ന്. വെള്ളാരപ്പിള്ളി മെമ്പറുടെ നിലയിലും, മറ്റു പല നിലയിലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ സഹോദരന്റെ നിലയിൽ ഇവിടെ ഇരുന്നിരുന്ന

ന്ന അദ്ദേഹം അവിടെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ആവേശം നിമിത്തം പറ്റത്താണു്.

എന്റെ മാന്യ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരേ! സഹോദരന്മാരേ! കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തെ ഒട്ടാകെ കണ്ടിൽ ഇറക്കുവാൻ പ്രാപ്തന്മാരും, രക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ ചുമതലക്കാരമായ സഹോദരന്മാരേ! കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തെ വിപ്ലവത്തിൽനിന്നു രക്ഷിക്കേണമേ എന്ന് അവസാനമായി ഒന്നുകൂടി അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Motion was put and carried.

The whole demand under General Administration minus Rs. 5 was put and carried.

**10. General Administration—Cranganur—
Rs. 900.**

The demand was put and carried.

The House rose for the day at 5-40 p. m.

B. V. KRISHNANKUTTY MENON,

Secretary to the Council.